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Marianas guide program wins PATA Gold Award. PAGE 6
HANMI occupancy at 84 percent in June. PAGE 7

FOR NMI THESPIANS

Triumphant showing in Nebraska

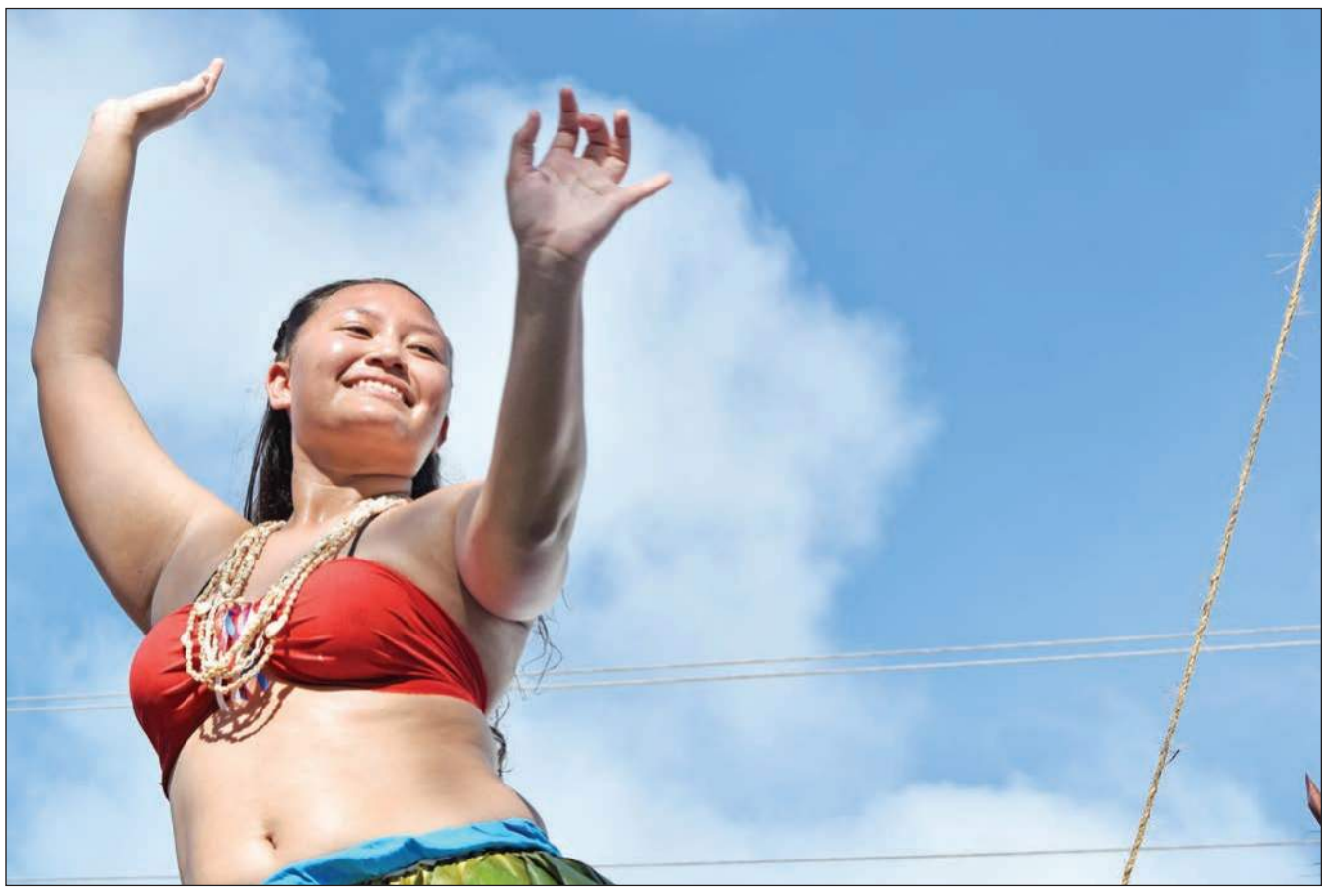
By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Eighteen International Thespian Society CNMI team members came home with Superior Medals, along with four perfect scores in the national individual events, in last month's International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The junior and senior troupes where among the 4,000 participants at the annual event where some 11th graders also succeeded in their college auditions.

Brothers Jonathan and

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A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS
A member of the Simiyan Marianas dance group performs on the float of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in last Saturday's 2018 Liberation Day parade.
JON PEREZ

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UA: Air traffic caused delays

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Air traffic congestion in the Philippines is being blamed for causing a cascading set of delays that affected United Airlines' Flight UA 192, resulting in some passengers taking nearly two days to make the trip to Saipan.

United was again in the spotlight after a passenger, who was part of that delayed flight, posted a video on Facebook detailing their experience, while two crewmembers in Guam explained.

United, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, apologized to their customers who had to go through the experience of several flight delays that took their overnight flight almost two days to reach its destination.

The delays affected around 50 passengers.

"We deeply apologize to our customers for the inconvenience caused by the delay of United flight UA 192 from Manila to Palau on Friday, July 20, due to air

See UA on Page 4

'Navy fails to consider impact of future trainings'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Navy violated National Environmental Policy Act by failing to consider the cumulative impacts of future Marine Air Ground Task Force training on Pagan, according to Tinian Women Association and three other environmental groups.

The groups, through David L. Henkin of Earthjustice, pointed out that the Navy and U.S. Department of Defense themselves note "the geographic scope of the cumulative impacts analysis" includes all areas outside of the project impact zone "that could be affected by the proposed action."

In this case, Henkin said, the relocation from Okinawa to Guam will harm the Mariana fruit bats, which comprise a single population throughout the Mariana archipelago, in-

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Consul laments dwindling Japan tourist numbers

By FAHIM UDDIN
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REPORTER

Japanese consul Kinji Shinoda is saddened by the downward trend of Japanese arrivals in the CNMI and pines for the heyday of the Japanese tourism market in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Shinoda feels sorry that the presence of Japanese visitors has been decreasing every year since Japan Airlines withdrew from the CNMI in 2005. However, the dip has not only been in the CNMI but the entire of Micronesia, particularly with the decision of Delta Air Lines to pull out of the region in May.

According to Shinoda, under that circumstance, the mental distance between the CNMI to Japan has degenerated more than ever. He said this development is truly sad

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Local

CHCC budget request focus: Operations, personnel

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s budget request focuses mainly on operational and personnel expenses, according to CHCC representatives.

According to CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto, who was at yesterday's session of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, CHCC's budget request of $73.9 million for fiscal year 2019 is divided into personnel expenses and operations expenses only.

» Senate budget might not be ready for tomorrow's session

In a letter by CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña that Sasamoto summarized for the committee during yesterday's meeting, it said that the $73.9 million budget request "represents $52.4 million for personnel and $21.5 million for operations."

Personnel expenses represents CHCC's current staffing as well as additional staff needed. This includes medical professionals—doctors and nurses—and their support staff.

"[This also includes] additional staff for Rota and Tinian

See CHCC on Page 4

Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Budweiser Cliff Fishing Derby

Sport fishing is a small but important niche market for The Marianas, and it's another prime example of our how our rich natural resources are important for the tourism industry, Fishermen throughout the Marianas are gearing up for the 2018 Budweiser Cliff Fishing Derby in Rota on Aug. 3-5, 2018. The designated derby fishing sites for the weekend event include popular fishing spots As Matmos and Pona Point cliff sites. Registration is $25. Derby orientation will be at 5 p.m. on Aug. 3 at the Guata Beach Park, followed by the start of the derby. The derby will end at 10 a.m. on Aug. 5, followed by an island-style awards banquet at 1 p.m. at Teteto Beach.

Prizes will be awarded for the most variety, biggest fish, and for total weight. The MVA is providing cash prizes for the Top 3 finishers in the categories of biggest fish and total weight.

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Marianas Visitors Authority, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works, and Ambros Inc. For complete rules or to register, contact special assistant for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327.



UPCOMING EVENTS
International Festival of Cultures
Sept 21-23, 2018
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan, Saipan

www.mymarianas.com



9th Circuit grants PTSA request for more time

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has given the Tanapag Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association more time to file a rehearing petition in connection with its request to intervene in the lawsuit filed by a couple who successfully challenged the constitutionality of the CNMI gun control law.

The Ninth Circuit judges gave the association until Oct. 18, 2018, to file a petition for panel rehearing.

If a petition for rehearing is filed on time, the mandate of the Ninth Circuit's ruling shall be stayed pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure.

Last July, the Ninth Circuit affirmed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling that denied Tanapag Middle School PTSA's motion to intervene.

The Ninth Circuit judges concluded that the Tanapag Middle School PTSA lacks standing to intervene. Therefore, the Ninth Circuit judges said, Manglona did not err in denying PTSA's motion to intervene.

Because of this, the judges declined to address the argument of U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife that the appeal is moot, as well as the PTSA's challenges on the merits to Manglona's summary judgment order.

The PTSA wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's order that denied its motion to intervene in the Radich couple's lawsuit.

In her March 28, 2016 ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the CNMI gun control law that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

In response, the CNMI passed Public Law 19-42, SAFE Act, which removes the ban on possession of handguns and also establishes new rules for transporting and using firearms.

The PTSA then filed a motion to intervene. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Promoter's motion to dismiss counterclaim granted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI granted yesterday Saipan concert promoter Steven Brownstein's motion to dismiss a counterclaim filed against him by a former CNMI resident who is now based in Honolulu in connection with the derailed concert of the English reggae and pop bond UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2005.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that Jason H. Aldan has not stated a claim for abuse of process. She dismissed without prejudice Aldan's counterclaim against Brownstein.

Manglona, however, allowed Aldan to amend his counter-complaint by Aug. 6, 2018, noting that Aldan has not previously done so.

In April 2017, Brownstein, who owns Steven Brownstein Entertainment, sued Fredrick Holloman and Aldan in federal court for allegedly defrauding his company of $115,000 by misrepresenting to have the UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Holloman is a San Diego, California resident that engages in the entertainment business.

Aldan works for CNMI Medical Referral in Hawaii, but also has worked from time to time with Brownstein to bring entertainers to Saipan.

Brownstein filed claims of breach of contract by Holloman, and fraud and unjust enrichment by Holloman and Aldan.

The court issued summonses for both defendants, but only Aldan was served.

In July 2017, Aldan, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed a motion to dismiss the fraud and unjust enrichment claims against him.

In November 2017, the court granted that motion but gave Brownstein leave to amend.

On Jan. 31, 2018, Brownstein filed an amended complaint, naming only Aldan as a defendant and omitting the breach-of-contract claims against Holloman.

In response, on Feb. 28, 2018, Aldan filed a motion to require joinder of a necessary party, Holloman.

The matter was resolved when the parties stipulated that Brownstein would "file a second amended complaint" naming Holloman as a defendant in this civil proceeding.

On May 4, 2018, Brownstein filed a second amended complaint naming both Aldan and Holloman as defendants, and a new summons for Holloman was issued.

In response, Aldan filed his answer to the second amended complaint and counterclaim, alleging abuse of process by Brownstein.

Aldan counterclaims for abuse of process. He asserts that Brownstein is using this lawsuit to make him (Aldan) "a scapegoat for the backlash, bad press, and embarrassment that Steven Brownstein Entertainment has encountered" when fans were stuck with tickets to canceled concerts.

Brownstein, through Steven Pixley, then moved to dismiss the counterclaim.

UFO fundraiser for deceased CW

By FAHIM UDDIN
fahimuddin489@gmail.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has launched a fundraising drive on behalf of the family of a Philippine national who recently died of breast cancer.

In a statement, UFO sought the community's support by donating any amount and dropping it at designated donation boxes.

UFO said it will only endorse donations at designated dropbox locations and other organizations. A family representative listed will be the sole contact for each donations box and the only representative allowed to pick up the boxes.

Jeanette Vistan Capayas, 48, was originally from Bulacan, the Philippines and left behind three children and a husband. Her son, Jonathan an upcoming senior at Marianas High School, said their mother's death is a tragedy for the family.

"She had a really hard time breathing already. I guess her organs were already failing," he said.

Jonathan Capayas said his mother was admitted to the hospital a week before her demise and doctors had to administer morphine to soothe her pain.

Nightly rosaries are being held at the San Antonio Church with the help of the Sto. Niño Group and those interested in attending may contact family representatives for more details.

Donation to the Capayas family can be dropped off at the following locations: LBC Chalan Laulau and Garapan, Rustan's FOREX in Chalan Kanoa, RNV FOREX Remittance in Garapan, APEX Remitance in Chalan Kanoa, and D' Elegance Restaurant in Garapan.

People or companies hoping to donate can also call UFO president Marlon Regaton at 788-9358 or Capayas' husband, Rolly, at 783-1967.



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Flash flood watch canceled

The U.S. National Weather Service canceled yesterday afternoon the flash flood watch for the CNMI and Guam as Tropical Depression 15W moved further away from Marianas region.

While heavy showers are still possible, widespread heavy rain is no longer expected.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 35 miles per hour, Tropical Depression 15W is moving north at 6mph.

As of 2pm yesterday, the tropical depression's center was located 415 miles north-northwest of Ulithi, 415 miles north of Yap, 580 miles north-northeast of Koror, 600 miles north-northwest of Guam, and 555 miles west of Saipan.

NWS expects Tropical Depression 15W to steadily strengthen over the next few days and could become a tropical storm later yesterday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JGO tables bill regulating practice of law in NMI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A bill that proposes to regulate the practice of law in the CNMI got the boot after members of a House of Representatives committee voted to table the bill.

The House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee, led by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), unanimously voted to set aside the bill in concurrence with an opinion by Attorney General Edward Manibusan's office.

According to the OAG's opinion, vice speaker Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-162 steps over several boundaries of law regulations, including the authority of the Judiciary through the chief justice to regulate admission to and governance of lawyers in the Commonwealth. The OAG also noted that other portions of the bill invades the jurisdiction of the federal government in determining who can represent the federal government in federal court.

"[The bill] proposes to completely revamp the unauthorized practice of law statute… The attempted overhaul of [the current law] blurs the lines between what is the practice of law and what is not the practice of law and puts potential clients and the general public at risk to rely on the legal advice of someone who is not licensed to practice law," the OAG opined according to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

H.B. 20-162 has sections that allow unlicensed individuals to represent other individuals in court.

The OAG opinion pointed out that the current law is sufficient to regulate the practice of law in the CNMI.

House minority leader Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) moved to table the bill in its entirety, with Rep. Frank Aguon (R-Saipan) and Rep. Blas "BJ" Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) simultaneously seconding the motion.

THESPIANS

From Page 1

Lars Wolf of Dandan Middle School led the team with two Superior Medals in junior duet acting and one excellent award, while Juliet Inocencio, also of DMS, had a Superior and two excellent ratings in solo musical theatre.

Hopwood Middle School's Edgardo and Vladimir Palma also had a Superior and two excellent ratings in Duet Musical, while Christine Munar of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School had an excellent and two good ratings in Monologue.

Western Pacific Region-National Forensic League president Harold Easton said all junior and senior thespians were evaluated at the same time and not divided into two separate divisions.

"Our juniors were evaluated along with the outstanding senior troupe participants from all over the nation and around the world," added Easton.

Elizabeth Jones, in the senior thespian Solo Musical Theatre, had three Superior medals, while Marianas High School's Rhythm 'N Harmony won two Superior medals and one excellent rating, including two perfect scores with their performances.

Miguel Aninon, Roland Balajadia, Angela Barbo, Eden Conner, Jefferson Cunanan, Donna Galvez, Lesly Ibarra, Leonard Manuel, James Reyes, Charley Sablan, Clarisse Torio, and Rinisa Torres were the members of the CNMI's Group Musical.

Grace Christian Academy's Su Min Woo had two excellent ratings and one Superior medal in Monologue, while MHS students Deirdre Rosete and Kasandra Villegas went home with a Superior medal and two excellent ratings in Duet Acting, the same result earned by Chloe Salvosa and Kelvin Wolf.

The CNMI's senior thespian technical team also had an excellent showing, with Louise Li of MHS earning three Superior medals and one perfect score in theatre marketing with Julia Malate in costume design, ending up with two Superior medals, an excellent rating, and one perfect score.

Ruoxiang Lu's scenic designs won for him a Superior medal and two excellent ratings, the same result garnered by Kaye Ann Ovando in short film animation. The duo of Michaela Gatdula and Anjenette Jewel Cubangbang went home with two excellent and one good rating in short film documentary.

Casey Huliganga and Lance Elayda's partnership in their short film earned a good rating, a point short of an excellent rating to round up the CNMI's list of awardees.

UA

From Page 1

traffic congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila," said UA in a statement that was released by its corporate communications.

UA 192 was originally bound for Manila-Koror-Guam late Friday night, making a stop in Palau to drop some passengers while also picking up others who are either going to Guam or also on their way to Saipan.

UA 192 from Manila was scheduled to leave at 9:45pm Friday via Koror, with Guam as the final destination where they would then take another flight to Saipan (UA 174) at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

First, the 9:45pm flight (UA 192) last Friday to Koror from Manila got delayed and the passengers boarded at 10pm and the plane left at midnight. The plane arrived in Koror at 4am.

UA said they needed to also delay the flight from Koror due to a regulation set by Federal Aviation Administration that the flight crew must be given at least eight hours of continuous rest during a 24-hour period.

"Because of this delay, our crew could not complete the flight to Guam within their legally permitted duty hours. We needed to delay the Palau-Guam segment and the flight arrived [in] Guam at 9:21pm on July 21 (Saturday)," said United.

They added that their crew in Guam assisted the passengers and managed to accommodate them in an extra flight so they could get home to their families on Saipan.

"The United team at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport Guam provided assistance and hotel and meal accommodations to connecting passengers," said the statement.

"United created a special flight from Guam to Saipan, which departed Guam at 5:20pm on July 22, to accommodate affected passengers who were connecting to Saipan," they added.

CONSUL

From Page 1

for both Japan and the CNMI.

According to the Marianas Visitors authority, arrivals from Japan in June, at just 483 visitors, is 87 percent lower than that of June 2017.

The decline is attributed to the pullout of direct daily flights by Delta Air Lines in early May 2018 and the sharp reduction of daily flights from Saipan to Guam for Japanese passengers arriving on United Airlines.

Shinoda hopes to revive Japan's connection to its former colony through the recent creation of the non-profit Japan-Northern Marianas Descent Association.

He said the organization would not have come about without the help provided by David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan Sr., Norman Tenorio, and Vincent Seman.

The Japan consul pointed out that the Northern Marianas' historical ties with Japan cannot be ignored and he is overjoyed that that has not been lost to CNMI historians like Don A. Farrell and former CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz.

Referencing Farrell's book, Shinoda said Chamorros and Carolinians under the Japanese administration before World War II enjoyed a higher standard of living than during the Spanish and German eras.

In the book *From Colonialism to Self-Government: The Northern Marianas Experience* that Dela Cruz wrote, Shinoda said the islands were better off during the Japanese period from an economic standpoint. Dela Cruz noted that agricultural and fishing industries were thriving during the Japanese era.

The Japan consul added that Japan and the Northern Marianas cultivated their own long histories and cultures for around 30 years. During the Japanese administration, the islands' noteworthy economic surge was led by the agricultural sector. Also, the Japanese administration developed the basic social system and infrastructure, public healthcare, education, and public security on the islands.

Despite the continuing negative trend of tourist arrivals from Japan, Shinoda said the Northern Marianas Descent Association's main goal is to promote Japanese cultural heritage and restore the historical connections between the people of Japan and the CNMI.

To this end, he encourages CNMI people of Japanese descent to learn their roots and reunite with their grandparents or grand-children in order to resume their relationship with them.

He hopes the younger generation of Japanese descent in the CNMI to join the organization and help conduct various activities and event in order revitalize the relationship between Japan and the CNMI.

NAVY

From Page 1

cluding Pagan.

Henkin said the record further confirms the Navy knew that future training on Pagan by Guam-based Marines was likely to harm Mariana fruit bats.

He said the Navy's failure to take the requisite hard look at the cumulative impacts of future training on Pagan—which is within the range of imperiled bats the Guam relocation of Marines would harm—further violates NEPA.

The groups—the Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are suing the U.S. Navy and Defense and their top officials for alleged violation of NEPA and the Administrative Procedure Act over their decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

Henkin said whether the extensive and highly destructive training on Tinian and Pagan by Guam-based Marines is characterized as a connected or cumulative action, the Navy's failure to consider and disclose its impacts in the relocation environmental impact study and supplemental environmental impact study subverted NEPA's command to "ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken."

Henkin said there is no record to support the Navy's and Defense's litigation position that moving Marines Corps personnel out of Okinawa was an "independent consideration," such that the Navy would proceed with relocating Marines to Guam, even if they could not adequately train to defend the U.S. and its allies.

CHCC

From Page 2

shealth centers," said Muña in the letter. Sasamoto noted that all of Tinian Health Center's request for additional employees are included in the $73.9 million budget after Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) asked for clarification.

Muna's letter also noted that charity care, or uncollectible debts, and the non-payment of local Medicaid funds matching continue to plague CHCC, despite improved revenue generation. Sasamoto noted in yesterday's committee-meeting-turned-budget hearing for CHCC that while CHCC revenue continues to rise—$39.6 million in fiscal year 2016; $52 million in fiscal year 2017; and an estimated $56.4 million in fiscal year 2018—local Medicaid costs minus local matching is at $14 million in "opportunity costs" lost. Sasamoto further noted that this is projected to increase to $15.5 million in fiscal year 2019.

Medicaid services pay for 55 percent of medical costs for those under Medicaid, while the local government is expected to shoulder the remaining 45 percent. The local government has not been matching the 45 percent since 2013, causing the corporation to lose potential revenue annually.

"…Given that uncompensated care [uncollectible debts] is averaging $1.6 million a month, the loss of these potential revenues is tremendous," wrote Muña, further emphasizing the corporation's need for funding.

Senate product for budget might not be ready for tomorrow's session

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, earlier noted that the Senate product for the fiscal year 2019 budget might be ready for Senate action by tomorrow, but this might no longer be the case in the wake of yesterday's committee meeting.

"We are trying to crunch all the provisions and all the numbers and, as I mentioned last time, that I was hopeful [to have a product by Wednesday], but we are still gathering the information before us," Hofschneider said. He added that there were some figures that he would like to clarify with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Cabinet members.

According to Hofschneider, some of the changes the committee wishes to implement are appropriating more funds to the Public School System. In the House version of the budget bill, PSS is appropriated $41.8 million.

"…We are also looking at, as far as CHCC is concerned, at their presentation today as well. We are also looking at submissions of line agencies and their personnel requests; some of them requested salary adjustments. All of those factors, we are closely monitoring it," he said, without mentioning anything specific.

Committee member Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) noted that the Senate has been looking at various approaches to meet CHCC's request. Santos also chairs the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

Agri-Fair organizers extend deadline



The organizers of the upcoming 35th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair have announced that the deadlines to enter the plant and animal exhibit categories have been extended.

The new deadlines are July 27, 2018, for the Plant Division and Aug. 3, 2018, for the Animal Division.



Registration forms are available at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources offices in Kagman and Lower Base, Office of Animal Health Services, the Garapan Public Market, and Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension & Educational Services in Building F.

Those who would like to participate in the Youth Division category can pick up registration forms at the NMC CREES main office in As Terlaje.

Anyone interested in submitting an entry in any category or participating as a vendor can contact the following for more information: Plant Division, Joshua Santos, 256-3319; Animal Division, Juan Taman, 234-6169; Youth Division, Lorenza Aldan, 237-6876; and, Vendors Division, Tina DLG Camacho, 256-3319.

The 35th Saipan Agricultural Fair will be held at the Civic Center beach park on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, from 9am to 2pm. The event is being organized by the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association with support from DLNR and NMC-CREES. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Farmers, ranchers, and the public are also encouraged to attend the proclamation signing scheduled for July 30, 2018, at 10am at the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.





The upcoming 35th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair, which will be held on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, will feature a variety of plants, animals, and other exhibits from farmers, ranchers, and other community members. These photos were taken at previous Agricultural Fair events on Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LTA registering for hotel certification

The Latte Training Academy has started the newest cohort of its Skills, Tasks And Results Training, or START, under its Hotel & Hospitality training program. The START certification is accredited through the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute and has been a flagship certification program since 2010.

"The START program certification has been highly sought after with a large percentage of participants working within our tourism industry. This training provides participants with a well-rounded knowledge base [that] carries across multiple areas of the hotel and hospitality industry. We have many employers seeking out our participants as they know that our certified graduates come with the skills and knowledge that allow them to quickly contribute to their organization" said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum.

The newest cohort is scheduled to start on Aug. 6, 2018, and will run Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm to 5pm at the Latte Training Academy's training facility on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. Interested participants can register for the course online at www.lattetrainingacademy.com.

Eligible U.S. workers are able to avail of the training through the LTA's partnership with the CNMI Scholarship Office.

"The START program is one of the most popular training certifications we offer. Many participants know that employment opportunities await them following the conclusion of the program, so we generally have a long waiting list. With the opportunity to utilize funding available from the CNMI Scholarship Office, we are able to offer more classes and serve a wider segment of our population. We are currently accepting registrations for the program [but] seats are filling up fast. We encourage anyone interested to visit our website and register for their seat in the upcoming class," said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez. ***(PR)***



Marianas guide program wins PATA Gold Award



Members of the 12th cohort of the Marianas Visitors Authority Tour Guide Certification Program and instructors in April 2018 on Saipan. The program was selected to receive the Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Award in July 2018. MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority's tour guide certification program has been awarded the 2018 PATA Gold Award, as announced on July 18, 2018, by the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

This year's awards, again supported and sponsored by the Macao Government Tourism Office, attracted 200 entries from 87 organizations and individuals worldwide. The winners were selected by an independent judging committee consisting of 14 senior executives from the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors. The MVA's award was presented under the category of Education and Training.

"This is a tremendous honor for the MVA and the Marianas as a whole to have won this PATA Gold Award. To have won it among 200 other competitors is humbling," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

"This program [Official Marianas Guide] has been in the books for many, many years and we finally were able to roll it out a couple years ago with great success," he added. "We thank all those involved from this program's infancy to what it is today for their hard work and perseverance. We thank our partners at Northern Marianas College for carrying out the training portion of this program. I want to especially thank our Tour Guide Certification manager and our entire team at the MVA for a job well done. This program is still new and there is still a long way to go to get everyone into compliance, to streamline the process for new and existing guides and operators, but we will get there slowly but surely."

The PATA Grand Awards are presented to outstanding entries in four principal categories: Marketing; Environment, Heritage and Culture; and Education and Training.

"The program could not have been possible without the unwavering support from the community, government agencies, and the Legislature," said MVA Tour Guide Certification program manager Kuen-Hee Han. "There was so much input from many individuals, including historian Genevieve Cabrera and NMC staff. The award demonstrates if we believe, it can become reality."

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office said, "This year's PATA Gold Awards winners present us with yet another wide array of remarkable accomplishments in the different branches of the tourism industry. MGTO is honored to help facilitate this PATA awards program, which for the past over two decades has been bringing into the limelight so many exceptional contributions, inspiring tourism stakeholders throughout the Asia Pacific region to build a vibrant whilst sustainable tourism industry."

Dr. Mario Hardy, PATA CEO, added, "On behalf of PATA, I would like to congratulate the 2018 PATA Grand and Gold Award winners, as well as all of this year's participants for their submissions. This year's winners exemplify the true values of the association in working toward a more responsible travel and tourism industry in the Asia Pacific region."

The awards ceremony will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia on Sept. 14 during PATA Travel Mart 2018.

This year's judging committee was composed of Abdulla Ghiyas, deputy managing director, Inner Maldives Holidays, Maldives; Benjamin Ping-Yao Liao, chairman, Forte Hotel Group, Chinese Taipei; Dr. Joby Thomas, associate professor, School of Business Studies and Social Sciences, Christ University, India; Margaret Wilson, managing director, C-MW Management, Australia; Matthew Zatto, vice president of Tourism, ADARA, Australia; Natasha Martin, managing director, Bannikin Asia, Hong Kong SAR; Nicholas Yeap, VP, Sales & Marketing, FLEX-IROAM Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia; Nobutaka Ishikure, chairman, Goltz et ses amis, Japan; Paul Pasquale, content manager, Red Robot Communications (Asia) Pte Ltd, Singapore; Peter Semone, founder and president, Destination Human Capital Limited, Ireland; Randy Durband, CEO, Global Sustainable Tourism Council, Thailand; Samantha Hague, general manager, Red Robot Communications (Asia) Pte Ltd, Singapore; Stephanie A Wells, MSC co-chair, School of Tourism Management, Capilano University, Canada; and Soon-Hwa Wong, founder and CEO, Asia Tourism Consulting Pte Ltd, Singapore.

In 2000 the Marianas' Saipanda Destination Program was awarded the PATA Gold Award in the National Marketing Program – Under $1 Million category. ***(MVA)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp

RFP18 – RED003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018 – 4:30PM

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN LOT NOS. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13, PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:'

- Lot Nos. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13 containing a combined area of approximately 6,292 square meters, more or less, in Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference "RFP18-RED003 - **LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN LOT NOS. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13, PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN"**. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, August 06, 2018 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:



Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755 • Email: mariannet@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its board meeting on **July 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Election of Officers
IV. Review and Adoption of Agenda
V. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/20/18)
VI. Public Comments
VII. Chairman's Report
VIII. Director's Report
- A. BPL Financial Report on Acct #1556 and #1962A
- B. 2018 NCEES Annual meeting-Scottsdale, Arizona from August 15-18, 2018

IX. Investigator's Report
X. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- A. Governor's Office
- B. Legislature

XI. Old Business
- A. Notice of Certification for Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (For Board review)

XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XVI. Announcements
- A. Next Meeting Date
- B. Adjournment of Meeting

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance July 25, 2018 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from May 24th, 2018

II. Public Comments
III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. Committeest
   a. Committee on Awards
   b. Committee on Appeal/ Deferments/Forbearance
   c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
   d. Committee on Program and Development
   e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business
V. New Business
1. Fall 2018 application status
2. Re-examination of SHEFA application deadline
3. Revisit requirements for supporting documents
4. Review request from NMTI regarding SHEFA student awards
5. Review NMC request to extend fall application deadline

VI. Executive Session
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

HANMI occupancy at 84 percent in June

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported an 83.56-percent average occupancy rate among 12 member hotels in June 2018. This figure reflects an 8-percent decrease compared to May 2017.

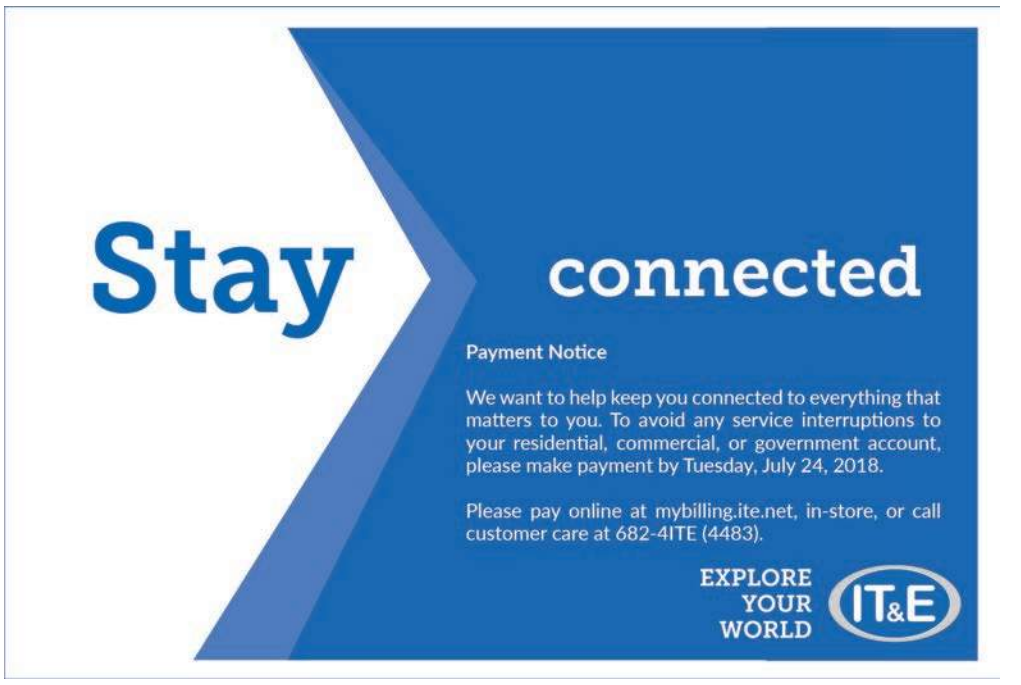
Average room rates were still higher than last year at $135.41, compared to $131.08 to last June. A total of 65,921 of 78,894 available room nights sold in June 2018, compared to 63,431 of 69,580 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"In June we saw a reduction in average occupancy rates, due largely to a dip in visitor arrivals," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "We are all looking forward to the resumption of daily flights from our Japan market in the winter season. The good news is that average rooms rates have been consistently higher every month this year compared to last."

The 13-percent increase in available room nights in June 2018 compared to 2017 is attributed to the addition of another major hotel in HANMI's 2018 inventory of rooms.

"It's worth noting that, although visitor arrivals were down 14 percent in June, average occupancy rates in HANMI hotels decreased only 8 percent," said Cavanagh. "This indicates that visitors are staying in HANMI hotels. We believe that this is a result of the efforts by our government partners who investigate visitor accommodations to ensure that they are being properly licensed and taxed. More than ever, we must work to ensure that our reputation as a destination is guarded. Additionally, that the safety of our guest is taken seriously as the codes for accommodation are held at a higher standard."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(HANMI)***



Committee sets more talks on heavy vehicle fees

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House committee has placed under further discussion a bill that would amend the fees for heavy vehicle registration.

The House Ways and Means Committee, led by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), is holding off on acting on Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 20-151, which seeks to increase registration fees of heavy equipment vehicles commonly used for construction projects.

The bill notes that the need for heavy equipment vehicles continue to rise due to several construction projects throughout the CNMI. These vehicles, which share the same roads as vehicles used for regular commutes, tend to put more strain on paved roads. H.B. 20-151 proposes to increase the registration of heavy equipment vehicles ranging from at least 50 percent to 200 percent.

The bill proposes that vehicles under 2,999 lbs have a registration fee of $150 instead of $50; vehicles that weigh 3,000 lbs to 4,999 lbs have a registration fee of $200 instead of $100; vehicles that weigh 35,000 lbs to 7,499 lbs have a registration fee of $300 instead of $200; and vehicles weighing over 7,500 lbs be registered at $500 instead of $400.

The bill also affects lowboys with a 100-percent increase from $50 to $100 and all other self-propelled vehicles from $100 to $150.

Fees would be deposited into a special account per each senatorial district of its collection, where 60 percent of the funds will be reserved for road repairs of primary roads and 40 percent for road repairs of secondary roads.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) suggested that, instead of implementing a large increase in registration fees, to instead implement a 25-percent increase across the board. Blanco also pointed out that that the Department of Public Works rents heavy equipment vehicles for government projects. He said that if the fees are increased, DPW would be affected and, ultimately, the fees would be shouldered by the Legislature.

After further discussion, the committee decided to first obtain the comments of DPW, Department of Public Safety, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce before further discussing the bill.

'A Walk to Remember' this Thursday

In honor of Bereaved Parents Month, the group We Remember Them CNMI is holding a Walk to Remember, in honor of all children who have died too soon.

The short walk will be held on Thursday, July 26, starting at 5:30pm at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion; participants are encouraged to wear black and white. We will join together to share in a potluck meal after the walk; bring finger-food to share.

For further information, contact We Remember Them, CNMI (weremembertheмcnmi@gmail.com), Rose Hocog (rose.tadahocog@gmail.com, (670)287-3933), Tania Marie Mendiola (taniamendiola4@gmail.com, (670)588-4399), Donna Krum (donnakrum@gmail.com, (670)783-1900) or Jill Derickson (jilld@pticom.com, (670)989-9821). ***(PR)***



Man not facing more prison time for flight disturbance

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The lawyer for a man who caused a flight disturbance says his client will likely be returning to South Korea since he is not facing additional prison time.

Pacific Daily News reported Friday that South Korean Dentist Kwon Woo Sung was detained for 57 days for assaulting flight crew aboard a Korean Air flight headed for Guam in 2016.

Court documents say Kwon yelled at staff and dragged a flight attendant through an aisle.

In Guam, Kwon pleaded guilty to interference with flight crew members and attendants. He was sentenced twice before, but appealed and won.

Federal Public Defender John Gorman says Kwon was in home detention for over two years in Guam while his case was being resolved.

He says Kwon lost his dental practice during that time.

USVI gets $1.2M from Interior

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior approved last week $1,202,370 in fiscal year 2018 grant funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands, which supports a wide variety of needs.

Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, announced the grant funding, saying: "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and I continue to support the leadership and people of the U.S. Virgin Islands through a wide variety of projects."

Domenech said these funds supplement $827,812 in grants released earlier this month.

"Through Congress' continued support for the U.S. insular areas, these funds continue to be important in many ways for the territory," added Domenech.

Additional programs funded in the USVI for FY 2018 follow:

■ $497,000 for the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network to purchase specialized equipment, machinery, and vehicles to remove and replace hurricane-destroyed fiber optic cables and enhance broadband network resiliency going forward. Roughly half of viNGN terrestrial network of fiber-optic cabling, or roughly 70 miles of cable is above-ground or hung aerially on utility poles, 90 percent of which was destroyed after the hurricanes in 2017. Government-owned, the viNGN network has been the middle-mile wholesale provider of internet (broadband) bandwidth to the territory's government agencies as well as to businesses and residents via 14 internet service providers since 2014.

■ $500,000 for a Master Training and Safety Program at the USVI Water and Power Authority for engineers, electricians, linemen, clerks, dispatchers, technicians, and meter readers in the Transmission and Distribution Division.

■ $170,000 to assist the Schneider Regional Medical Center that was heavily impacted by the hurricanes of 2017 and needs to address concerns with respect to audit readiness in relation to capital assets impacted. Audit readiness would also include revamping the fixed asset register and the corresponding record-keeping process.

■ $35,370 to maintain, renovate, repair, and provide technological upgrades for three bookmobiles on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John, allowing the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums to improve the availability of digital literacy library programs, computer trainings, and educational library activities to the public at large. Funds would also upgrade the bookmobiles to be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, repair heating and cooling systems, and generally help the territory continue to maintain the standards of the American Library Association.

Earlier this month, Domenech announced $827,812 in fiscal year 2018 funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands, bringing the total of fiscal year 2018 funding for the territory to $2,030,182.

■ Gustav A. Quetel Fish House - $60,322

■ East End Medical Center Corporation - $200,000

■ Water and Power Authority - $367,490

■ Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums - $200,000

Funds are made available through the Technical Assistance and Maintenance Assistance Programs at the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Applications are submitted from October through May 1 each year. Funds are awarded once OIA receives appropriations from the U.S. Congress until they are exhausted.

Domenech, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Interior secretary's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA supports the Secretary's mission of Fulfilling Trust and Insular Responsibilities through balancing efforts and limited resources toward stronger economic and health capacities, and fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas. ***(OIA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9800 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-04
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 24th, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TWO (2) NEW 2018–2019 VEHICLES (5 Door All-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW # 1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-BECQ-125
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 24, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (TINIAN BRANCH)

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-21, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of July 24, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Le Grand Bleu Inc. dba Make Sure Diving	7/10/2018 SLR-2018-X-174	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dive Saipan	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved 7/16/2018
2. Triple J-Art Ridge Village Homes, LLC	7/6/2018 SMS-2018-X-173	Low-Income Apartments	Garapan	Major Siting-New	Under Review*
3. Sea N Sky LLC	7/6/2018 SLR-2018-X-172	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 7/6/2018
4. Saipan Globe International Group, LTD	7/6/2018 SS-2018-X-171	Shoreline enhancement & UXO remediation	San Roque	Shoreline	Under Review*
5. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	7/6/2018 SPI-2018-X-170	Drydock-DeepStar	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved 7/23/2018
6. Saipan Globe International Group, LTD	7/6/2018 SMS-2017-X-055 Amendment 2018-1	Wetlands restoration & UXO Remediation	San Roque	Major Construction-Amendment	Under Review
7. Hiroshi Yamamoto	6/27/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0627	Mooring Buoy	Senhanom, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. American Sinopan, LLC	6/26/2018 SMS-2018-X-020 Amendment 2018-1	Temporary Office & Bridge Access	Tanapag	Major Construction-Amendment	Approved 7/16/2018
9. United Empire Investments, LLC	6/26/2018 SPI-2018-X-168	Saipan Star Cruise Ship Hotel	Tanapag Harbor	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/16/2018

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE
From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: July 24, 2018

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc. regarding the proposed renewal by the U.S. EPA of NPDES permit #MP0020371 for continued operations at the Managaha Wastewater Treatment Plant. As part of the NPDES reissuance application, Tasi Tours has applied for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification renewal from the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ).

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for ten (10) days, starting on July 24, 2018 and ending on August 2, 2018 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

TOYOTA

URGENT SAFETY RECALL REPAIR

TAKATA AIRBAG INFLATOR DEFECT



Defects in the over-pressurization of the Takata inflator, can cause the inflator to rupture and eject metal fragments when the airbag deploys. This could injure or cause the death of the vehicle's occupants.

Toyota is conducting a safety recall to address identified defects in the driver and/or passenger front airbag inflators that affect certain vehicles in the following models.

MAKE	MODEL		CAMPAIGN
TOYOTA	2003-2013	COROLLA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2003-2012	MATRIX	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2003-2006	TUNDRA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2004-2005	RAV 4	DRIVER SIDE AIRBAG

MAKE	MODEL		CAMPAIGN
TOYOTA	2003-2006	SEQUOIA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2007-2012	YARIS	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2009-2013	4RUNNER	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2009-2013	SIENNA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG

ONLY a Certified Toyota/Lexus Technician is able to perform the required work, so as a precaution, we request that you bring your vehicle in for our service team to remedy this condition.

There is no cost to you for this work as Toyota is committed to the safety of its customers and wants to make sure your vehicle is as safe as possible for you and your passengers.

To find out if your vehicle is affected by this recall, log on www.toyota.com/recall.

We're open on Monday through Saturday 8 am to 5 pm.

Free 39-point VHC (visual health check) during your visit.
Refreshments such as doughnuts and coffee will be provided.
To book your appointment, please call 234-5911,
or visit our website at AKsaipan.com.
We appreciate your understanding for this safety recall and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Oil & Filter Change Special

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for vehicles who complete Takata Airbag Recall Service

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Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
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Saipan, MP 96950

Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Middle children: An endangered species

Being a middle child is like being one of those presidents between Ulysses S. Grant and Theodore Roosevelt. Yeah, you made it, but does anyone really care? Anyone saddled with this fate had better get used to being overlooked and shortchanged.

Other children can expect better. The firstborn enjoys a period of exclusive parental attention that confers a lifelong assumption of being wonderful. The baby is spoiled by dint of the cuteness that goes with being the youngest. Parents who shower the eldest with attention, because they're new at this and afraid of what could go wrong, often adopt a lax approach to the last one out of exhaustion or complacency.

But the kid in between gets none of these benefits. Parents tend to be strict with the middle child, as they were with the first—not indulgent, as they are with the last.

Plus this kid is stuck between an elder sibling and a younger one. As one woman we know recalls, "I used to fear being alone with my older sister, who delighted in pinning me on the floor and drooling on my face. Meanwhile, my younger sister rarely got grounded, met curfew or paid for gas or clothes or makeup."

Another, the fourth of eight, says of the eldest, "There were a lot more pictures of him than me, and a lot more home movies of him than me." Her younger siblings, meanwhile, got luxuries the parents couldn't afford in earlier years. One middle child we know well, when asked about his experience, replied: "I have no comment."

The obvious unfairness that they endure shapes middle children. They often turn out to be independent because Mom and Dad aren't going to do everything for them, hard-working because how else can they expect to get their due and humble because they learn from an early age they're not that important. They also tend to be rebellious and hungry for attention, and who can blame them?

As if these poor souls haven't had enough pain, now comes the news that middle children are becoming extinct in America. Back in the 1970s, reports Adam Sternbergh in *New York Magazine*, "four kids (or more) was the most common family unit." But today, the typical family with children has just two. And guess who loses out this game of musical chairs? It's not the oldest or the youngest.

Even if you're not a middle child, though, this looming absence should concern you. "What few people realize is that middle children are actually more likely to successfully effect change in the world than any other birth order," psychologist Catherine Salmon told Sternbergh.

You need evidence? Well, the roster includes Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Susan B. Anthony, Bill Gates, Chief Justice John Roberts, Michael Jordan and Madonna. Also Donald Trump. Say what you will, you can't say they didn't effect change in the world.

So if middle children largely disappear, everyone else will lose the distinctive qualities they have to offer. And here's one last bit of injustice: If the experience of middle children is any guide, no one will notice.

(c)2018 *Chicago Tribune*

Nicaragua was one of the most peaceful countries in Latin America. After Ortega's crackdown, it's in a tailspin

By ROBERT MUGGAH
Los Angeles Times

Robert Muggah is a co-founder of the Igarape Institute, headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, and executive director of the SecDev Group in Ottawa.



Nicaragua is taking a dangerous turn toward civil war. Since protests and riots began three months ago, Nicaraguan soldiers, police and paramilitary groups have killed more than 280 people and injured 1,800 others.

The demonstrations were sparked in April by changes to the country's Social Security system and the government's slow and inadequate response to a large fire in the Indio Maiz biological reserve. Protesters are now demanding that President Daniel Ortega resign.

Rather than negotiate, Ortega has cracked down further. Police and paramilitary forces killed 31 civilians on Sunday and violently retook the Monimbo neighborhood in the city of Masaya this week.

As grim as the situation is, it could be much worse. Nicaragua is not a heavily armed society. It has one of the lowest rates of guns per capita in the world and one of the lowest homicide rates in the Americas. In fact, compared to its Central American neighbors, Nicaragua has been a relatively safe haven for decades.

It's partly because Nicaragua enjoyed peaceful conditions that its citizens are suddenly up in arms. Although there were signs of corruption within the Ortega government as it sought to weaken democratic institutions, Nicaraguans were mostly willing to look away—until they weren't.

There are at least three reasons why Nicaragua has remained relatively peaceful compared with most of its Central American neighbors.

First, it does not have the kind of gang culture you find in the so-called Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The gangs that do exist in Nicaragua—there are at least 100, spread across the country's urban areas—are not nearly as violent as the maras and pandillas next door. Most of those more violent gangs originated in Los Angeles. Many members of MS-13 and Barrio 18, for instance, are children of refugees who had fled civil wars in the 1970s and 1980s and were deported back to Guatemala City, San Salvador or Tegucigalpa. By contrast, Nicaragua's street gangs tend to be homegrown.

Perhaps more important, the Nicaraguan government largely avoided the mano dura anticrime policies so common in the Northern Triangle countries. It placed a much greater emphasis on crime prevention, police reform, community policing, alternative sentencing and social welfare programs. The results were startlingly effective.

Nicaragua also invested heavily in a wide range of economic development programs to address the underlying causes of criminal violence, with a particular focus on reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion. Nicaragua's approach was fundamentally different from the strategies applied in the Northern Triangle.

Many of these progressive policies began to change in 2007, the year after Ortega was reelected. (His previous term ended in 1990.) Ortega's government slowed reform, and pretty soon there were signs of political corruption and of politicization among military and police forces.

By 2017, Nicaraguans' unusually high trust in their state security forces had started to deteriorate. Police and parapolice detained demonstrators during protests over local elections last November in which Ortega's Sandinista party won 135 of 153 seats. Armed forces killed six protesters, a prelude to the bloodletting to come.

That smaller outbreak of violence fueled a suspicion that Ortega's government may have ties to drug trafficking groups. Although he has accused his opponents of having such connections, there are long-standing allegations that Ortega's campaigns were financed partly by the drug trade. The claims go back to the 1980s, when Ortega was accused of colluding with the kingpin Pablo Escobar.

Still, more than 70 percent of Nicaraguans said they approved of their government in 2017, and nearly 75 percent said they believed conditions were improving.

This has changed dramatically since April. Ortega's latest crackdown laid bare his determination to hold onto power at any cost and shocked many citizens into resistance. As Nicaragua's relative prosperity and stability collapses, fewer Nicaraguans will be willing to look the other way.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trump is pushing Europe into Asia's embrace

By FERDINANDO GIUGLIANO
Bloomberg News



Ferdinando Giugliano writes columns and editorials on European economics for Bloomberg Opinion. He is also an economics columnist for La Repubblica *and was a member of the editorial board of the* Financial Times.

With friends like these, it's wise to look around for some new ones.

Donald Trump has called the EU a "foe" and advised British prime minister Theresa May to sue the rest of the bloc over Brexit. The U.S. president has already levied tariffs on European steel, and is threatening to do the same on lots of other products, including cars. So it's hardly a surprise that Europe's leaders are turning eastward in search of new allies.

This week, the EU has signed a landmark trade deal with Japan, known as JEFTA, which will make it easier for European food producers to sell their products into Japan while further opening up European markets to Japanese carmakers. There was also a rapprochement with Beijing. For the first time since 2015, the yearly EU-China summit ended with a joint statement, as well as limited progress toward a bilateral investment treaty.

The two events are, of course, hardly comparable. The deal between the EU and Japan is one of history's largest trade agreements. The two economic blocs have enjoyed strong political relations for years and share similar positions on trade. Conversely, the EU and China are at loggerheads on several important issues, such as China's buying into high-tech European companies and the huge public subsidies enjoyed by Chinese state-owned corporations.

That's one reason why Brussels has opposed the classification of China as a "market economy" at the World Trade Organization. Trade between China and the EU has risen sharply in the past two decades, but we're far from any meaningful new trade or investment deal.

Yet even small steps are meaningful in relations between powers, and this week tells us something important about Europe. For all the differences between the EU and China, Trump's bruising approach will encourage the mending of bridges between adversaries. The friendlier outcome from the EU-China summit shows this. For Japan and the EU, the motivation is even clearer. They had both negotiated, or were in the process of negotiating, a trade deal with the U.S. under the Obama administration before Trump decided to scupper both deals.

Of course, there's no certainty that any EU "Pivot to Asia" will actually succeed. The rise of anti-establishment governments, for example in Italy, is pushing the EU in a more protectionist direction. Italy's Five Star Movement wants the country to not ratify a trade agreement with Canada, even though it has—for now—given its approval to the Japan deal. The risk is that Trump-style populists may oppose closer trading and investment relationships, especially with an expansionist China.

But the painful progress of Britain's exit from Europe shows the limits of nationalist simplicity on trade. Ahead of the referendum, supporters of the Leave campaign argued that one big advantage of quitting the EU would be the freedom to pursue more favorable trade deals around the world. Yet the irony of the Japan-EU agreement is that Britain will probably end up having to replicate the same terms to keep Tokyo happy, something it will be at pains to do given the importance of Nissan and Honda to the U.K. economy. So much for freedom.

We're still far from a realignment of the alliances that have dominated the post-World War Two era. Brexit may still not happen, or happen in a very diluted manner. The U.S. may return to multi-lateralism should a new president replace Trump. But the EU is right to spread its risks. As extraordinary as this may sound, Asia looks a safer bet than America at present.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Children of slain reporter: Our mother would have been with students rallying against gun violence in Annapolis

Our mother, Wendi Winters, would have supported the demonstration organized by students from St. Mary's County calling for reforming gun laws being held Saturday in Annapolis: either she would have covered it, or shown up in solidarity.

Instead, she was murdered by a coward on June 28 along with four other of your colleagues.

As the surviving children of Wendi Winters, we feel many levels of commonality with these students. We understand some of what they are going through, and we are deeply frustrated that this community hasn't even had time to heal from the shooting at their school before the next tragedy struck.

The history of our mom's murderer was a matter of public record. He harassed, threatened, stalked and made himself known to be a danger.

No responsible gun owner could argue in good faith that he should have had access to a firearm. Yet, well-worn loopholes in the patchwork of state and federal law guaranteed that this coward could buy some sort of firearm legally and without submitting to a background check.

A former editor of this newspaper wrote that when faced years ago with what to do about this monster, he assessed that legal action against him would likely only make him more dangerous, and would fail to prevent his access to guns due to gaps in the law. We agree.

At this point, after all the years of debate, it seems clear our lawmakers intend these gaps, which undermine the entire intent of background check laws. Pitifully weak background check laws have been reduced to an administrative nuisance for responsible gun owners, while dangerous cowards like the man who murdered our mother have free access to buy guns. The laws ensure profits for gun manufacturers at the direct price of public safety.

That would-be murderers can legally purchase their arms despite the abundance of red flags should be a stain on this nation's conscience. It should be felt as profound shame by the lawmakers who refuse to do anything about it, while good people continue to die.

Our mother's courage saved lives on June 28. We all owe it to her to ensure that the gun reforms needed to save lives in the future are enacted.

To the students from St. Mary's County, thank you for demanding a better future. Mom would be proud of you.

Winters Leigh Geimer
Phoenix Winters Geimer
Montana Winters Geimer
Summerleigh Winters Geimer

'Normal' isn't coming back

By LEONARD PITTS JR.
Miami Herald



Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald*, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.*

Smack them with their own bat.

That was the gist of, "Hey Democrats, Fighting Fair is for Suckers," a provocative jeremiad that Politico ran on Independence Day. In it, writer Rob Goodman argued that, after Republicans have killed all the old political norms—denying a Supreme Court nominee a hearing, for example—it's silly for Democrats to go on playing by the rules. Why obey the law in a lawless world?

"Norms are only norms when they are mutual," wrote Goodman, "fairness is only fair when it's shared. Democrats aren't justified in breaking norms because they've been 'wronged.' They are justified because the current system has ceased to function."

It's possible to feel simultaneously uneasy at the brute force politics Goodman envisions—like packing the Supreme Court, for starters—and yet compelled by his larger point: Democrats must realize that they're in a back-alley brawl, not a pillow fight. That they don't get this yet can be inferred from the new slogan House Democrats unveiled last week: "For The People." While that's an improvement over last year's "A Better Deal," with its musty scent of leftover Roosevelt, it still doesn't suggest a party ready to rumble.

In that, the party is disconnected from its people, who are viscerally furious. Democratic leaders don't seem to know what to do with that anger. Indeed, they seem to fear it.

To a degree, that's understandable. Next month marks 50 years since the Chicago convention wherein Democratic anger—and police brutality—split the party, alienated voters and helped make Richard Nixon president. But their palpable discomfort with the outrage of their constituents suggests Democrats have over-learned the lessons of that debacle.

Consider last month when Trump officials were being harassed in public and Rep. Maxine Waters went rhetorically rogue. If it was hypocritical for Republican leaders—some of them barely housebroken—to start chirping about civility, it felt weak and mealy-mouthed for Democratic leaders to join them.

They seem to be holding out hope of an eventual return to "normal." But normal—i.e., the pre-Trump world—is gone for good. When in history has a social upheaval—and that's surely what this is—ever brought us back to where we started? So instead of pining for what was, Democrats must figure out how to thrive in what is. Besides, it's not as if the people are without reason for rage. From the corruption at the EPA to the caging of immigrant children to a nonstop litany of lies and alibis to the betrayal summit in Helsinki, the reasons could not be more clear—or righteous.

Republicans, it must be said, have never feared their voters' anger. No, they curate it like a flower. And if that sense of seething resentment has led to a spike in right-wing terrorism, it has also led to control of Congress, most statehouses, the Supreme Court and the presidency.

Meantime, the political party that has won the popular vote in six of the last seven presidential elections struggles to find its voice. It's lovely that Democrats have a new slogan, but what they need is a new attitude.

No one wants to see a spike in left-wing terror to match the spike on the right. But neither should we want to see any more of Democrats grabbing their ankles and saying, "Thank you, sir, may I have another?" as the paddle comes down. Somewhere between those extremes, the party must carve itself a path.

Democrats can begin by recognizing the opportunity at the heart of their problem. The choice here, after all, is simple. They can continue to deny the people's righteous anger.

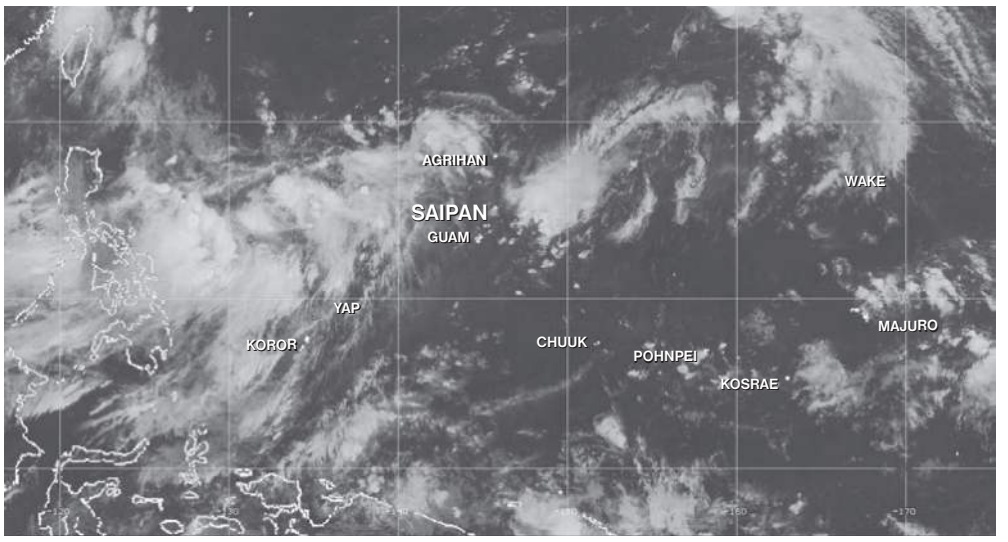
Or they can use it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:12 AM, MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak upper-level trough remains over the Marianas, helping to keep most of the showers and thunderstorms away from the islands. The probability of scattered showers is looking less likely as time passes. Decided to maintain scattered showers in the forecast, however, pushed start time back another 12 hours to tonight. Models are now trending toward less showers and lower rainfall over Guam with most of the convection now over Tinian and Saipan. The problem is the upper trough is not moving much, resulting in upper-level convergence over the Marianas, this is overcoming the abundant moisture in the region. If the trough does start to move more westward as the models keep showing, then the islands, especially Tinian and Saipan, do have a possibility of getting heavy rain. This situation will continue to be monitored over the next couple days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 73°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	100° / 82°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°
Busan	Sunny	90° / 81°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 57°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	91° / 79°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	80° / 74°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
11:52 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.06
7:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:49 AM	3:58 PM
Wednesday	-	3:35 AM	4:48 PM
Thursday	-	4:22 AM	5:36 PM
Friday	-	5:11 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	-	6:00 AM	7:08 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

2018 Liberation Day Parade

Photos by FAHIM UDDIN



The entire CNMI JROTC unit passes the stage where CNMI dignitaries are watching.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, prepares to shake the hand of a JROTC member.



Liberation Day Committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr., back left, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang listen as Lawrence Tubera gave a sample of his gold-medal-winning performance in this year's World Championships of Performing Arts.



A man holds up a sign in support of the rain-delayed parade.



A mini tank was one of the crowd pleasers in the parade.



Herman Guerrero, the 2018 Liberation Day Parade Grand Marshal, right, with Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos wait for the start of the event.



A member of the San Vicente Lancherus march in the parade with a young goat.



CNMI Museum director Danny Aquino drives a mini-train in the parade.



One of the sea creatures portrayed by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs float that was driven by DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter.



Erica Faye Tubera performs for the crowd.

Business

G-20 calls for more dialogue on rising trade tensions

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The world's top financial officials called Sunday for more dialogue on trade disputes that threaten global economic growth, with one warning that differences remain and tensions could escalate further.

The two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 nations came as the United States clashes with China and other nations over trade, with the nations imposing tariffs on billions of dollars of the other's goods.

A final communique said that although the global economy remains strong, growth is becoming "less synchronized" and risks over the short and medium terms have increased.

"These include rising financial vulnerabilities, heightened trade and geopolitical tensions, global imbalances, inequality and structurally weak growth, particularly in some advanced economies," the communique said. "We ... recognize the need to step up dialogue and actions to mitigate risks and enhance confidence."

On Friday, President Donald Trump renewed his threat to ultimately slap tariffs on a total of $500 billion of imports from China — roughly equal to all the goods Beijing ships annually to the U.S. The White House has also itemized $200 billion of additional Chinese imports that it said may be subject to tariffs.

The U.S. has also imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, including from Europe. China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey have counterpunched with taxes on U.S. goods. EU tariffs on American products include Harley-Davidson motorcycles, cranberries, peanut butter, playing cards and whiskey.

EU financial affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici warned that such disputes are a threat.

"Protectionism, I want to insist on that, is good for no one," Moscovici told reporters. "Trade wars are not easy ... they create no winners, only casualties."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin disputed that protectionism is the issue.

"People are trying to make this about the United States and protectionism. That's not the case at all," he said at a news conference. "This is about the United States wanting fair and free trade. ... We very much support the idea that trade is important for the global economy, but it's got to be on fair and reciprocal terms."

Mnuchin said there had been no "substantive discussions" with China about trade during the meeting. Asked what it would take to re-start talks with the Asian giant, he said, "Anytime that they want to sit down and negotiate meaningful changes, I and our team are available."

As the gathering wound up, Moscovici said differences of position remain despite talks.

"These meetings have been taking place in an international context which is very challenging. ... Trade tensions remain high and they threaten to escalate further," he said.

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has warned that a wave of tariffs could significantly harm the global economy, lowering growth by about 0.5 percent "in the worst-case scenario."

Mnuchin disagreed Sunday, saying that overall, the U.S. economy has not been harmed by the trade battles set off by Trump's get-tough policies. He acknowledged, however, that some individual sectors have been hurt and said U.S. officials are looking at ways to help them.

"We see some micro impacts where people, our counterparts, are targeting very, very specific items, in very specific communities," he said. "But from a macro standpoint, we do not yet see any significant impact on the economy."

So far, global markets have remained generally calm despite the U.S.-China trade war and the other trade conflicts.

But analysts say they expect Trump will impose more tariffs on China and potentially other key U.S. trading partners. With those nations almost certain to retaliate, the result could be higher prices for Americans, diminished export sales and a weaker U.S. economy by next year, they say.

Moscovici said the G-20 meeting had not been tense. He said that countries must remain "cool-headed and maintain a proper sense of perspective" and that the EU remains open to dialogue.



AP

Argentine Treasury Minister Nicolas Dujovne, left, and Argentine Central Bank President Luis Caputo arrive for a press conference during the G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

New UK Brexit chief: We may not pay exit fee if no deal

LONDON (AP)—Britain's slow move away from the European Union took a new twist Sunday as the new Brexit chief suggested that Britain might not pay its 39 billion pound ($51 billion) divorce bill if no trade agreement with the European Union is reached.

Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab told the Sunday Telegraph that there must be "conditionality" between Britain making the hefty exit payment and its ability to create a new relationship with the EU.

"You can't have one side fulfilling its side of the bargain and the other side not, or going slow, or failing to commit on its side," he said, implying that the threat of withholding payment might get Brexit talks back on track.

Britain and the EU remain far apart on terms of a new trade setup. British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party is also deeply split over what Brexit policy to support. Raab replaced David Davis, who resigned two weeks ago to protest May's "soft" Brexit plan.

May has faced a substantial rebellion from party colleagues who favor a complete break with the EU—a so-called "hard" Brexit—rather than May's proposal, which calls for a "common rule book" with European nations that would govern trade in goods.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier is also lukewarm on May's latest proposal, asking many questions about its viability Friday. Raab, however, says he is still hopeful a deal can be concluded by October so the EU parliament and national parliaments of EU nations can ratify the deal before Britain leaves in March.

"Actually the fact Michel Barnier is not blowing it out the water but asking questions is a good positive sign—that's what we negotiate on," Raab said, looking forward to more Brexit discussions Thursday in Brussels.

But former Prime Minister John Major warned that the hardliners in his own Conservative Party are making the situation worse.

"The danger at the moment is that they will frustrate every move the government seeks to make and by accident, because nothing can be agreed, we will crash out without a deal," he said on the BBC.

Major said holding a second referendum to gauge public sentiment now that more is known about the true impact of Brexit would be "morally justified" because Brexit advocates made so many inflated claims ahead of the June 2016 vote.

"If you look back at the Leave campaign, a great many of the promises they made were fantasy promises," he said. "We now know they are not going to be met."

Best Rx for a toxic workplace: Leave

YOUR OFFICE COACH



By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: The managers in our department are autocratic bullies who treat employees like first-graders. If they find us talking to a coworker, they immediately order us to get back to our own cubicle, even if we're discussing a work project. They actually covered all the windows to keep us from looking out.

Because we've been told that we must protect confidential information, I moved my computer so that people passing by couldn't see the monitor. When management noticed this, I was given a written warning for "tampering with company property," even though nothing had been damaged.

In the past six months, half our employees have left because working here is simply unbearable. We are seldom fully staffed because people look for reasons to call in sick. Two new managers were recently hired, but they're just as bad as the old ones.

The vice president and human resources director always support our bosses, so talking with them won't help. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Based on your description, the prognosis for change is not good. When the predominant management style is punitive and restrictive, that's one clear sign of a toxic organization. Since corporate culture starts at the top, this dictatorial behavior is probably being modeled and rewarded by upper management.

Because managers tend to hire in their own image, dysfunctional leaders are drawn to applicants who exhibit similar traits. As a result, one toxic executive can spawn an entire collection of tyrannical bosses. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that your newly hired supervisors fit the same mold as their predecessors.

Sadly, the only cure for a toxic culture is replacing poisonous executives, which is outside your scope of influence. So perhaps it's time to follow your former colleagues out the door and seek a less oppressive place to work. While you may not have the power to change the company, you do have the power to leave.

Q: I'm beginning to fear that I will never find work because transportation is such a big problem. I'm not a professional person, so there are many jobs I could do. However, I can't afford to buy a car, and there are no bus stops near my apartment.

Although I have taken Lyft to job interviews, a daily ride from where I live would be too expensive. Almost every interviewer asks about transportation, so I'm afraid that's why I haven't been hired. What can I do about this?

A: Lack of transportation presents a difficult dilemma, so I am certainly sympathetic. However, I believe you need to reverse your thinking. Instead of stressing about getting to work from where you live, consider living where you can get to work.

Apparently, your current address makes buses inconvenient and car services expensive. But if you had an apartment on the bus line, that would put many jobs within reach. Alternatively, if you apply for positions with suitable housing nearby, then perhaps the Lyft rate would be manageable.

While I do realize that moving isn't easy, it might be better than remaining unemployed.

Nation

Gunman in Trader Joe's standoff was feuding with grandmother



AP
In this photo Saturday, July 21, 2018 file photo provided by Christian Monterrosa, Gene Evin Atkins is arrested after evading police and holding dozens of people hostage inside a Trader Joe's supermarket, in Los Angeles. A feud between Atkins and his grandmother over his girlfriend staying at the grandmother's home exploded into violence that ultimately led to him taking people hostage inside the Los Angeles supermarket, a relative said Sunday.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A feud between a man and his grandmother over his girlfriend staying at the grandmother's home exploded into violence that ultimately led to him taking dozens of people hostage inside a Los Angeles supermarket, a relative said Sunday.

Investigators believe Gene Evin Atkins, 28, shot his grandmother several times and wounded his girlfriend at their South Los Angeles home on Saturday afternoon before he led police on a chase, while exchanging gunfire with officers, crashed into a pole outside the Trader Joe's in the city's Silver Lake section and ran inside.

Atkins was booked Sunday on suspicion of murder after an employee was killed as he ran into the supermarket, police said.

His cousin, Charlene Egland, told The Associated Press that he had been arguing with his grandmother—who had raised him since he was 7 years old—"on and off for about two or three weeks" over his girlfriend staying at the elderly woman's home.

"She didn't want the girl over there anymore," Egland said.

On Saturday, Atkins' grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Madison, 76, was walking back into the home and told her grandson "he needs to turn some of them TVs off" when he shot her, she said.

Egland said she heard about six gunshots before another cousin came running from the porch and shouted to Egland, "I think Gene shot my mama!"

The girlfriend was grazed in the head, police said.

Egland said she ran to call 911 and waited for an ambulance to arrive. At the same time, police said Atkins stole his grandmother's car and forced his girlfriend into the vehicle.

Officers tracked the car using a stolen-vehicle tracking system and tried to stop the man in Hollywood, but he refused to pull over, police said. During the chase, he fired at officers, shooting out the back window of his car.

More gunfire ensued before Atkins crashed into a pole outside the supermarket. The man exchanged gunfire with police again and that's when a 27-year-old Trader Joe's employee, Melyda Corado, was shot and killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said. Officers escorted the girlfriend from the vehicle.

Customers and employees frantically dove for cover and barricaded themselves inside storerooms and bathrooms as bullets fired by police shattered the store's glass doors.

As he heard gunfire, Sean Gerace, who was working in the back of the supermarket, grabbed several of his co-workers and the group made their way into an upstairs storage area. He grabbed a folding ladder and tossed it out a window, helping his colleagues escape to safety, he told KNBC-TV.

"I grabbed an emergency ladder, barricaded the hallway, grabbed a weapon, put the ladder out the window and just tried to get the attention of the SWAT officer," Gerace told the television station.

About three hours later, Atkins—who had been shot in the left arm—agreed to handcuff himself and walked out the front door, surrounded by four of the hostages. He was being held on $2 million bail Sunday and it wasn't clear if he had an attorney to comment on the allegations.

A gun was found in the store, police said.

A 22-year-old woman was wounded by glass fragments and later took herself to a hospital, police said.

The Fire Department took six people to hospitals for non-life threatening conditions or injuries, police said.

Atkins' grandmother initially was taken to a hospital in critical condition and police said she had been shot seven times but Egland, who visited Madison at the hospital on Sunday, said she had only been shot three times, had undergone surgery and her condition was improving.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 dead after shooting at Mormon church in Nevada

FALLON, Nev. (AP)—Authorities say one person is dead and another injured following a shooting at a Mormon church on Sunday in Nevada. Fallon Police Chief Kevin Gehman says 48-year-old John Kelley O'Connor walked into the church, opened fire then walked home. TV station KOLO reports that O'Connor surrendered after authorities called his home and asked. Gehman said O'Connor appears to have targeted one person and not the church, which had as many as 50 people at the time. No motive was immediately known. Authorities did not disclose the victims' names pending next-of-kin notification. Fallon is about 60 miles (96 kilometers) east of Reno.

Civil rights suit planned after 911 caller killed by police

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Attorneys for a woman who was killed by a Minneapolis police officer after she called 911 to report a possible assault are working on a civil rights complaint. Justine Ruszczyk Damond was shot by former Minneapolis police Officer Mohamed Noor in July 2017. Ruszczyk was engaged to Don Damond. Attorney Robert Bennett says he plans to file a lawsuit Monday in federal court. Prosecutors say Noor was in a squad car's passenger seat when he shot Damond through the driver's side window after she approached the vehicle. They say there's no evidence Noor encountered a threat that justified deadly force. No further details about the complaint have been released. A news conference is scheduled for Monday afternoon.

Official: Woman impaled by beach umbrella at Maryland beach

OCEAN CITY, Md. (AP)—A spokeswoman for a Maryland beach town says a woman has been accidentally impaled in the chest by a beach umbrella. Ocean City spokeswoman Jessica Waters said it happened Sunday afternoon on the beach. She says the 54-year-old woman was conscious, but that her condition is not known at this time. Waters says a Maryland State Police helicopter took the woman for medical care. Her name wasn't immediately released. Last week, a woman was impaled by a beach umbrella on the New Jersey shore. Authorities said part of the umbrella pierced the woman's ankle after being driven along by the force of the wind.

Utah man arrested in stabbing death of 10-month-old son

OGDEN, Utah (AP)—A Utah man is in jail on suspicion of stabbing his infant son multiple times and then putting the boy's bloody body in a garbage can, authorities said Sunday. Alex Hidalgo, 37, of Ogden, was being held without bond at the Weber County Jail on suspicion of felony charges of aggravated murder, abuse or desecration of a dead human body and obstruction of justice. It was unclear if he had a lawyer to speak on his behalf. Ogden police say 10-month-old Alex Hidalgo Jr. was found non-responsive and covered in blood Friday afternoon. The boy later was pronounced dead at a hospital. According to a probable cause statement, Hidalgo was watching his son and another child while the boy's mother left the apartment to run some errands.

Boat accident survivors join hundreds at Branson memorial

BRANSON, Mo. (AP)—The 17 people killed when a tourist boat sank in a Missouri lake were remembered Sunday during a service attended by hundreds of people in the tourism community of Branson.

A church bell at Williams Chapel at College of the Ozarks chimed 17 times for those who died Thursday at Table Rock Lake.

More than a dozen survivors of the tragedy, along with their family and friends, filled the front pews of the church to organ music. Although a patrolman guarded their privacy, he allowed one attendee, Carmen Lawson, to deliver pink and red roses after the service to a family that lost nine loved ones.

"It was such a tragedy," said Lawson, 61, of Branson, who delivered the flowers. "I feel for the family."

Branson Mayor Karen Best recalled the desperate family members who turned to City Hall for information about their loved ones.

"We started putting faces with names. Those who were once strangers to us quickly became family," Best said. "They were a part of our community. And we did what families do. We held hands, we wept and we prayed together."



She praised the people who tried to save others from drowning, calling them "heroes who did everything in their power to save lives."

The service was held at the college near the site of the accident, which happened as winds approached hurricane strength. The city and college hosted the remembrance for the victims.

"Today we are all family," said College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis. "We are here to comfort those who have been affected by this tragedy in so many, many ways."

Online fundraisers had raised more than $400,000 for the Indiana family's funeral expenses by Sunday afternoon.

Others killed were from Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois.

During the closing benediction, Nixa Fire Chaplain Steve Martin said of the victims that while "most of them are visitors ... they are not strangers to us."

Asia

While making nice with US and Seoul, N. Korea slams Japan

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's state-run media have toned down their rhetorical attacks on the United States and South Korea while leader Kim Jong Un pursues a more diplomatic approach, but the vitriol continues — and Japan is now Pyongyang's favorite foil.

Commentaries critical of Tokyo, which has maintained a harder line toward Pyongyang than Seoul and Washington, have increased noticeably in recent weeks in a strategy aimed at driving a wedge between Japan and its allies.

Over the past few days, the North's official media have chastised Japan for discriminating against its large ethnic Korean community and played up South Korean reports that protesters in Seoul threw eggs at the Japanese Embassy over Tokyo's alleged attempts to take control over a disputed island that is a cause celebre for both North and South.



AP

In this undated photo provided on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, speaks during a visit to a machine factory in North Hamgyong Province, North Korea.

Pyongyang has also lambasted Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono for suggesting Japan could foot part of the bill for inspections to verify the North's denuclearization process.

Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910 to 1945 and the history of animosity between the neighbors goes back centuries. Tokyo and Pyongyang have never had formal diplomatic ties.

But North Korea's strategy of deliberately keeping Tokyo at arm's length has been particularly apparent over the past several months, as Kim has held summits with China, South Korea and the United States. He is expected to hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in September.

In a typical commentary late last week, the North Korean ruling party's daily newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, called Japan "impotent" in the political and diplomatic arena and said Kono was a "political charlatan."

"Japan is near to the Korean Peninsula. But Japan is a burglar that historically inflicted wars and misfortune and pain of colonial rule on Korea," it said before getting to North Korea's often repeated demand: "Japan should make a sincere apology and reparation for the past crimes."

Because it is state-run, North Korea's media offer a good barometer of Pyongyang's political climate. Since earlier this year, they have significantly cut back on negative commentaries directed at U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, presumably to avoid souring the North's ongoing diplomatic outreach toward both countries.

It has, however, reserved the right to lash out at some of their negotiators or policies without slamming the leaders themselves.

Pyongyang's game of hardball with Tokyo is calculated to play well in China and South Korea, which also harbor deep distrust toward Japan. Tokyo has clearly been relegated to a secondary role in the talks to persuade Kim to abandon his nuclear arsenal and bring his country more into the norms of the international community.

But while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also reportedly considering a one-on-one meeting with Kim, he has held surprisingly firm to a tough policy of maintaining economic and political pressure on the North. The Japanese leader could meet Kim at an eastern Russia development forum in Vladivostok in September, where Kim and Putin may hold their summit.

Abe's position is extremely delicate.

Public sentiment in Japan toward North Korea is generally negative. The North already has ballistic missiles that could be used to launch a conventional, biological or nuclear attack on Tokyo or other major cities, along with U.S. military bases throughout Japan where tens of thousands of American troops are deployed. Kim unilaterally announced a moratorium on long-range missile launches, pleasing Trump, but has pointedly said nothing about the mid-range missiles that concern Japan the most.

Abe is also committed to resolving a bitter dispute over more than a dozen Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and '80s. Pyongyang insists that issue has been resolved.

Tokyo claims the North has not been fully transparent about the fate of the abductees and whether any are still alive.

The biggest hurdle, however, could well be the reparations issue, which some experts believe could cost Japan billions of dollars.

North Korea has long demanded that Japan pay for the damage it caused during its often brutal colonial rule. Although Japan claims that matter was settled long ago, the shifting ties between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington — and particularly efforts to formally declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War — could put Tokyo under increased pressure to reexamine its own past or be left out in the cold.

Chinese leader arrives for Africa visit as US interest wanes

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Africa on Saturday on a four-nation visit seeking deeper military and economic ties while his rival in a bitter trade war, the Trump administration, shows little interest in the world's second most populous continent.

This is Xi's first trip abroad since he was appointed to a second term in March with term limits removed, allowing him to rule for as long as he wants. That rang familiar to some of Africa's long-entrenched leaders.

China is already Africa's largest trading partner, and it opened its first military base on the continent last year in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, which this month launched a China-backed free trade zone it calls the largest in Africa. After surpassing the U.S. in arms sales to Africa in recent years, China this month hosted dozens of African military officials for the first China-Africa defense forum.

Xi is stopping in Senegal and then Rwanda ahead of his participation in a summit of the BRICS emerging economies in South Africa that starts on Wednesday.

The summit comes amid the United States' billion-dollar trade war with China and tough trade negotiations with other key economic partners. Last month the foreign ministers of BRICS members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa criticized what they called a "new wave of protectionism," saying U.S. measures undermine global trade and economic growth.

Xi's Africa visit also highlights China's sweeping "Belt and Road" initiative that envisages linking Beijing to Africa, Europe and other parts of Asia via a network of ports, railways, power plants and economic zones.

While such high-profile projects bring badly needed infrastructure and generate economic growth, U.S. officials and others have warned that African nations are putting themselves into debt to China. Its government, banks and contractors loaned more than $94 billion to African governments and state-owned companies from 2000 to 2015, according to the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University.

"Public debt in the median sub-Saharan African country rose from 34 percent of GDP in 2013 to an estimated 53 percent in 2017," says a report in January by Wenjie Chen and Roger Nord of the International Monetary Fund.

From oil in countries like Nigeria and Angola to rare minerals in Congo, Africa's natural resources are a major draw for China's economy, the world's second largest behind the U.S. China's voracious appetite for resources such as timber and ivory, however, has taken its toll on Africa's environment, often with the help of corrupt local officials.

On his first visit to a West African country Xi will meet with President Macky Sall of Senegal, which according to the International Monetary Fund had economic growth of 7.2 percent last year and whose largest trading partner is the European Union, notably France.

Suicide bombing in Kabul kills 14, Afghanistan's VP unharmed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber carried out an attack near the Kabul airport Sunday, killing 14 people and narrowly missing Afghanistan's vice president, who was returning home after living in Turkey for over a year, security officials said.

The blast occurred near Kabul International Airport shortly after the convoy of the controversial vice president had just left the airport, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said.

Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, a former Uzbek warlord, and his entourage were unharmed, said Danish.

Danish said that 14 people, including both civilians and military forces, were killed in the attack and 50 others wounded.

The Islamic States group's local affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack on its Amaaq News Agency website, claiming it had killed and wounded over 115 people.

In a statement from the presidential palace, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the attack.

Dostum had been undergoing medical treatment in Turkey, and is now well and ready to resume work, said presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri.

Dostum left Afghanistan in 2017 after the attorney-general's office launched an investigation into allegations that his followers had tortured and sexually abused a former ally turned political rival. He has since reportedly been barred by the government from returning to Afghanistan.

It was not immediately clear whether Dostum will now face any charges.

"The judiciary in Afghanistan is an independent body and will carry out its duties and responsibilities as it deems appropriate," said an official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on the issue.

Dostum, accused of war crimes committed after the fall of the Taliban government in 2001, has also been criticized by the United States for human rights abuses.

World

In Damascus, Syrians dare to hope that war's end may be near

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Crossing into Syria from neighboring Lebanon, visitors are greeted by giant posters of President Bashar Assad.

The signs proclaim: "Welcome to victorious Syria."

In the capital of Damascus, many of the checkpoints that for years have snarled traffic are gone. The city is again connected to its sprawling suburbs once held by the opposition, and many former residents and visitors from other parts of Syria fill its streets.

There's a new feeling of hope that an end is near to Syria's seven-year civil war.

"It is almost over," Nazeer Habash, 60, said as he walked home near the Hijaz train station in central Damascus. "It is like a child when he starts to walk, taking one step after another, and victory will always be on our side."

In a central square not far from where rebel shells used to land just a few months ago, families and groups of teenagers took selfies. Children played on a large sculpture spelling out, "I (heart) Damascus."

The celebratory mood in government-controlled areas stems from successive military advances in the past year.

It is fed by a feeling that Assad, thanks to unwavering support from allies Russia and Iran, has won—or at least has defeated those opposition fighters trying to topple him.

The country has suffered catastrophic damage and some aspects of the conflict are far from over. Still, many Syrians—even some among the opposition—are hoping for some degree of security and stability.

The government now controls major opposition strongholds and key cities like Aleppo, Homs and even Daraa, the southern city where the uprising was born from protests in March 2011.



AP

In this Friday, July 20, 2018, photo, a poster of President Bashar Assad with Arabic that reads "Welcome in victorious Syria."

The latest government triumph came this week when rebels agreed to surrender their last pockets of control in Quneitra province in the southwest, opening the way for Assad's forces to re-establish authority along the Israeli frontier.

"The direct threat to Damascus has ended. And since it's the capital, its conditions affect all other parts of the country," said Rami al-Khayer, 27, as he sipped a hot beverage with a friend at the famous Nofara cafe in the capital's old quarter.

The scene in devastated areas once controlled by rebels outside Damascus is starkly different. But even amid the ruins there, life is slowly returning to normal, with more businesses reopening and people tricking back.

In Douma, the largest town near Damascus and site of an alleged chemical attack in April, trucks and bulldozers work around the clock to clear the remains of destroyed buildings, sending up clouds of dust.

The operation in Douma is the start of a long process to clear debris from eastern Ghouta, the string of towns and villages east of Damascus that were held by rebels and under siege by government forces for five years. Until the rebels surrendered in the spring, the residents suffered under food shortages, with cases of malnutrition reported. Now, almost everything is available, although prices are still too steep for many.

Two months ago, Mohammed Sleik reopened his sandwich shop near Douma's badly damaged Grand Mosque. During the siege, he had to search for supplies; now they are brought to his door.

"Things are getting better but slowly," Sleik said as he prepared a sandwich of french fries in pita bread for a customer at his shop, named Zaman al-Sham—Arabic for "Era of the Levant."

He said he sells about 170 sandwiches a day, more than three times what he sold before government forces captured the area. Sleik has six employees at his shop, where the menu includes beans, falafel and fries.

Stores are reopening on Douma's main street of Jalaa, and shoppers on a recent day were buying farm produce, clothes and shoes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran 'mother of all peace,' 'all wars,' leader warns Trump

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president Hassan Rouhani has urged U.S. President Donald Trump to "make peace" with Iran, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported on Sunday. The report quotes Rouhani as saying "American must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars." Rouhani warned Trump to stop "playing with the lion's tail" and threatening Iran, "or else you will regret it." Trump earlier this year pulled the United States out of the international deal meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon and ordered increased American sanctions. Trump has suggested Iranian leaders are "going to call me and say 'let's make a deal'" but Iran has rejected talks. Rouhani has previously lashed out against Trump for threatening to re-impose the sanctions, as well as for moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and banning travel to the U.S. from certain Muslim-majority countries.

Pope appeals for end of migrant shipwrecks, prays for dead

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has lamented the latest migrant deaths in shipwrecks of smugglers' boats and entreated nations to act swiftly to prevent more tragedies. Francis in his traditional Sunday appearance to faithful in St. Peter's Square expressed sorrow over recent deaths in the Mediterranean Sea and assured victims' loved ones of his prayers. He called on "the international community to act decisively and quickly so similar tragedies aren't repeated" and said the "safety, respect of rights and the dignity of all must be guaranteed." Far fewer migrants have arrived in Italy this year compared to the same period in 2017, but U.N. refugee officials say recent crossings have been deadlier. With Italy's new populist government and Malta not allowing aid groups' boats to dock, rescued migrants lately have been stranded at sea for days.

Suspected US airstrike kills 4 al-Qaida operatives in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni tribal leaders say a suspected U.S. drone strike has killed four alleged al-Qaida militants in the central province of Marib. The tribal leaders said on Sunday that the alleged operatives' charred bodies were later found after the unmanned aircraft targeted a house while they were inside in the district of al-Rawda. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni affiliate is known, has long been considered the global network's most dangerous branch and has attempted to carry out attacks on the U.S. mainland. Yemen was plunged into civil war more than three years ago. Al-Qaida and an Islamic State affiliate have exploited the chaos to expand their presence in the country.

Mexican president-elect vows improvements to deter migration

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Sunday released a seven-page letter he sent to U.S. President Donald Trump detailing how he plans to improve Mexico's economy and security when he takes office in December so that Mexicans do not feel the need to migrate.

"There will be many changes," he promised in the letter. "And in this new atmosphere of progress with well-being, I'm sure we can reach agreements to confront together the migration phenomenon as well as the problem of border insecurity."

Lopez Obrador also suggested the two countries draft a development plan backed by public funds and invite Central American countries to join, with the aim of making it "economically unnecessary" for Central Americans to migrate.

Marcelo Ebrard, who is slated to become Mexico's foreign minister, read the letter aloud to reporters gathered at Lopez Obrador's political party headquarters. Ebrard said Trump had received the letter.

The incoming Mexican president plans to cut government salaries, perks and jobs. Savings from those cuts, he says, will be directed toward social programs and infrastructure. He also plans to reduce taxes for the private sector in the hopes of spurring investment and job creation.

Lopez Obrador said Sunday that some of his future collaborators in government posts have offered to work for free during his six-year term. Several of his proposed Cabinet members are independently wealthy.

"It's an enormous privilege to participate in a process of transformation. There's no price on this," the president-elect said.

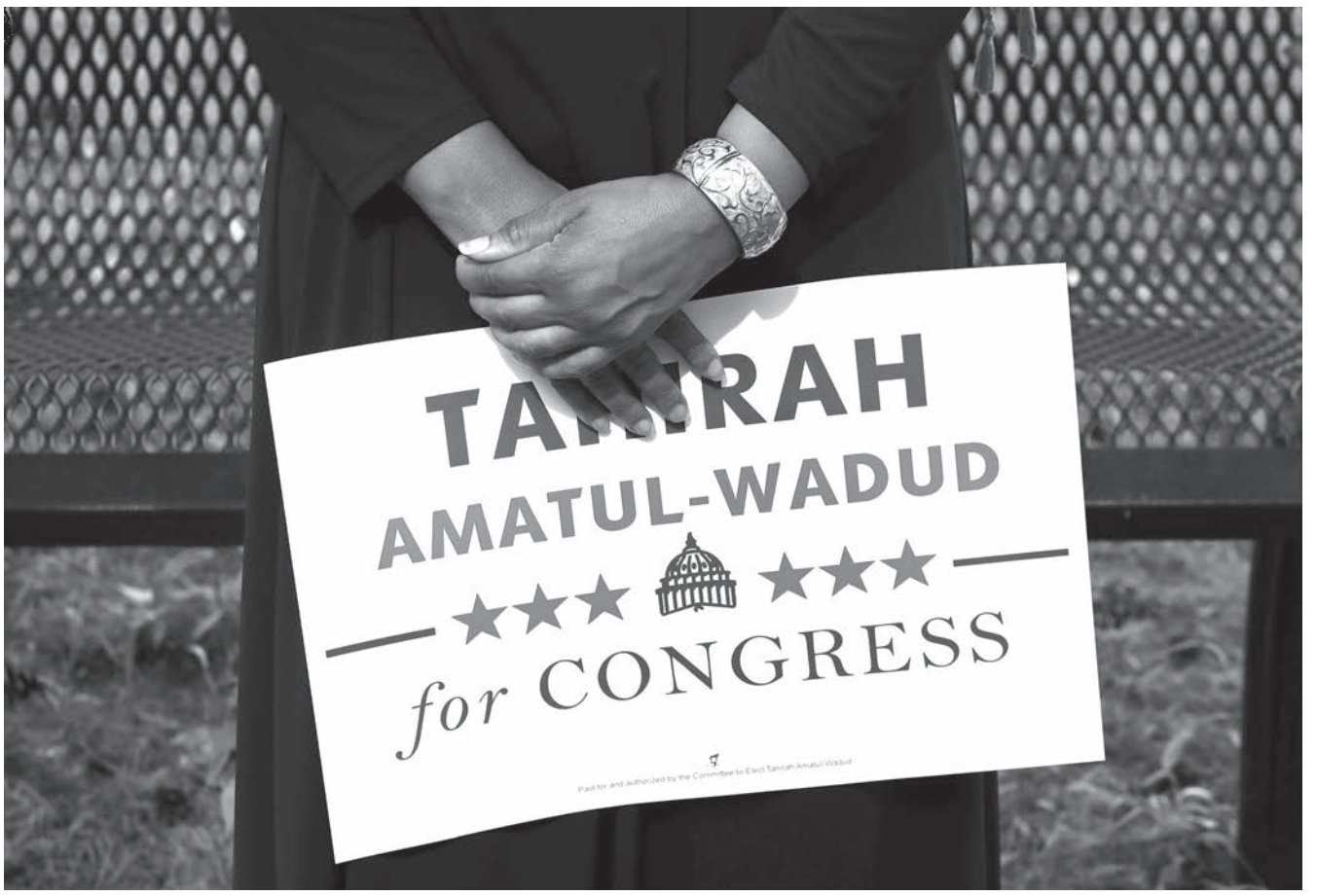
He said he will publish salaries of government employees, from high-ranking ministers to police officers. He also said his political party, Morena, will turn down the extra public financing it is supposed to receive next year because it won additional seats in Congress.

Lopez Obrador said Morena could collect up to 1.4 billion pesos ($73.5 million) and more than double what it was allocated for 2018. Mexican electoral authorities assigned the party 650 million pesos for this year.

"That's too much in an atmosphere of austerity," Lopez Obrador said.

He said he doesn't want Morena to turn into an economic power with career politicians who forget that their mission is to serve the people.

Focus



AP

Attorney Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., holds a campaign sign as she meets residents of an apartment complex in Springfield, Mass., Monday, June 18, 2018. Muslim Americans are running for elected office in numbers not seen since before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Muslim candidates run in record numbers but face backlash

By PHILIP MARCELO and JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—A liberal woman of color with zero name recognition and little funding takes down a powerful, long serving congressman from her own political party.

When Tahirah Amatul-Wadud heard about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's stunning upset over U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley in New York's Democratic primary last month, the first-time candidate saw parallels with her own long-shot campaign for Congress in western Massachusetts.

The 44-year-old Muslim, African-American civil rights lawyer, who is taking on a 30-year congressman and ranking Democrat on the influential House Ways and Means Committee, said she wasn't alone, as encouragement, volunteers and donations started pouring in.

"We could barely stay on top of the residual love," said Amatul-Wadud, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal's lone challenger in the state's Sept. 4 Democratic primary. "It sent a message to all of our volunteers, voters and supporters that winning is very possible."

From Congress to state legislatures and school boards, Muslim Americans spurred to action by the anti-Muslim policies and rhetoric of President Donald Trump and his supporters are running for elected offices in numbers not seen since before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, say Muslim groups and political observers.

Many, like Amatul-Wadud, hope to ride the surge of progressive activism within the Democratic Party that delivered Ocasio-Cortez's unlikely win and could help propel the Democrats back to power in November.

Still, the path to victory can be tougher for a Muslim American. Some promising campaigns already have fizzled out while many more face strong anti-Muslim backlash.

In Michigan, Democrat candidate for governor Abdul El-Sayed continues to face unfounded claims from a GOP rival that he has ties to the controversial Muslim Brotherhood, even though Republican and Democratic politicians alike have denounced the accusations as "conspiracy theories."

In Rochester, Minnesota, mayoral candidate Regina Mustafa has notified authorities of at least two instances where anti-Muslim threats were posted on her social media accounts.

And in Arizona, U.S. Senate candidate Deedra Abboud received a torrent of Islamophobic attacks on Facebook last July that prompted outgoing U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake, the Republican lawmaker Abboud is hoping to replace, to come to her defense on Twitter.

"I'm a strong believer that we have to face this rhetoric," said Abboud, who has also had right-wing militant groups the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights and the Proud Boys stage armed protests her campaign events. "We can't ignore it or pretend like it's a fringe element anymore. We have to let the ugly face show so that we can decide if that is us."

There were as many as 90 Muslim-Americans running for national or statewide offices this election cycle, a number that Muslim groups say was unprecedented, at least in the post-9/11 era.

But recent primaries have whittled the field down to around 50, a number that still far exceeds the dozen or so that ran in 2016, said Shaun Kennedy, co-founder of Jetpac, a Massachusetts nonprofit that helps train Muslim-American candidates.



AP

Attorney Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., listens to volunteers during a visit to a community garden while campaigning in the Mason Square neighborhood of Springfield, Mass. Monday, June 18, 2018.

Among the candidates to fall short were California physician Asif Mahmood, who placed third in last month's primary for state insurance commissioner, despite raising more than $1 million. And in Texas, wealthy businessman Tahir Javed finished a distant second in his Democratic primary for Congress, despite an endorsement from Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Nine candidates for Congress are still in the running, according to Jetpac's tally. At least 18 others are campaigning for state legislature and 10 more seek major statewide and local offices, such as governor, mayor and city council. Even more are running for more modest offices like local planning board and school committee.

The next critical stretch of primaries is in August.

In Michigan, at least seven Muslim Americans are on the Aug. 7 ballot, including El-Sayed, who could become the nation's first Muslim governor.

In Minnesota, the decision by Keith Ellison, the nation's first Muslim congressman, to run for state attorney general has set off a political frenzy for his congressional seat that includes two Muslim candidates, both Democrats: Ilhan Omar, the country's first Somali-American state lawmaker, and Jamal Abdulahi, a Somali-American activist.

But historic wins in those and other races are far from assured, cautions Geoffrey Skelley, an associate editor at Sabato's Crystal Ball, a nonpartisan political analysis website run by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Omar's chances of emerging from a field of five Democratic candidates in Minnesota's Aug. 14 primary was bolstered by a recent endorsement from the state Democratic Party, but El-Sayed is an underdog in his gubernatorial race, he said.

Other Muslim-American candidates might fare better in Michigan, which has one of the nation's largest Arab-American populations, Skelley added.

There, former state Rep. Rashida Tlaib has raised more money than her Democratic rivals in the race to succeed Democratic Rep. John Conyers, who resigned last year amid allegations of sexual misconduct. Former Obama administration official Fayrouz Saad is also running as a Democrat in the wide open race to succeed Republican Rep. David Trott, who isn't seeking re-election.

Either could become the first Muslim woman elected to Congress, which has only ever had two Muslim members: outgoing Ellison and Rep. Andre Carson, an Indiana Democrat seeking re-election.

Saad, who served most recently as director of Detroit's Office of Immigrant Affairs, recognizes the importance of representing her community in an era of rising Islamophobia.

The 35-year-old broke from the conservative Republican politics of her Lebanese immigrant parents following the 9/11 attacks because she felt Arabs and Muslims were unfairly targeted.

"I felt the way to push back against that was to be at the table," said Saad, adding that her parents' political leanings have also since moved to the left. "We have to step up and be voices for our communities and not wait for others to speak on behalf of us."

But not all Muslim candidates feel that way.

In San Diego, California, 37-year-old Republican congressional candidate Omar Qudrat declined to comment on how Islamophobia has impacted his campaign, including instances when his faith have been called into question by members of his own political party.

Instead, the political newcomer, who is one of at least three Muslim Republicans running nationwide this year, provided a statement touting his main campaign issues as faces Democratic U.S. Rep. Scott Peters in November: addressing San Diego's high number of homeless military veterans, improving public education and expanding economic opportunities for city residents.

"Running for public office is about advancing the interests of your constituents and the American people," Qudrat's statement reads. "Nothing else."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Ford's 2019 F-150 King Ranch is best diesel vehicle on market



The 2018 Ford F-150 with a 3.0-liter Power StrokeAE diesel engine.
TNS

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

It's ironic, but increasingly likely, that U.S. pickup buyers will be last stand for diesel engines, outside of semi-trucks and maybe tugboats.

For years, American drivers were unmoved by diesel's combination of power and efficiency while tens of millions of European buyers snapped them up for everything from VW Golfs to Mercedes S-class limos.

We are well and truly through the looking glass.

In 2018, just about every European automaker is phasing out diesels as countries and cities across the continent prepare to ban them. At the same time, the Detroit 3 are rolling out a new generation of diesels—priced at a hefty premium over sexy V-8s—to power their most popular and profitable vehicles.

The 2018 Ford F-150's 3.0L diesel is the latest to hit the road, and the best for at least the moment. That last caveat is because archrival Chevrolet has a brand new diesel coming in an all-new truck, and Ram's slick new 2019 1500 pickup is slated to get Fiat Chrysler's reliable diesel early next year.

Behind the Wheel
2019 Ford F-150 King Ranch diesel 4WD
Four-wheel-drive, five-passenger full-size pickup
Price as tested: $64,805 (excluding destination charge)
Rating: Four out of four stars
Reasons to buy: Towing capacity; fuel economy; features
Shortcomings: Engine idle-stop; cost, size.

How much?

Being first of the new generation of diesel pickups on sale doesn't make the F-150 diesel look like a bargain, because it's not. Diesel buyers are a special breed, happy to pay extra for an engine that combines good fuel economy with hefty towing capacity. Ford's 250-hp 3.0L V6 diesel is a $4,995 option on the F-150 XLT that's its base model, an extra $4,000 on a midline Lariat and adds $3,000 to the tab for luxurious pickups like the King Ranch I tested.

The diesel, which Ford builds at a factory in England, is the sixth engine in the current F-150 lineup. It's paired with Ford's smooth and precise 10-speed automatic transmission and available with rear- or four-wheel drive.

Ford expects it to account for about 5 percent of F-150 sales. That's a small share, but the numbers get meaningful when you're talking about America's best-selling vehicle. Ford will probably sell more diesel F-150s than Chevy sells Corvettes.

At the moment, the only other light-duty pickup with a diesel is the 2018 Ram 1500, available in small numbers after being hung up while the EPA scrutinized its engine controls,



TNS
The 2018 Ford F-150's 3.0L diesel is the latest to hit the road, and the best for at least the moment.

which were supplied by the same company that made controls for the cheating Volkswagens that began diesel's downfall.

Next year, the F-150 diesel gets more meaningful competition in an all-new diesel in the all-new Chevy Silverado, and Ram's carryover diesel in its brand-new '19 1500 pickup.

Other competitors—but only sort of, since they lack diesels—will be the Nissan Titan and Toyota Tundra full-size pickups. A few shoppers may also consider the bigger medium-duty Nissan Titan XD's 5.0L V-8 diesel.

I tested a loaded King Ranch Super Crew 4x4 with four doors, seating for five, ranch-style leather and badging and more. It stickered at $64,805, excluding destination charges.

It's hard to compare that to other pickups until Ram and Chevy have equally modern diesels available. It's likely to be competitive, but at the high end of the class, since the F-150 is the sales leader.

Competitive base prices
(Excluding destination charges)
(Automatic transmission, 4wd crew cab models)
Ford F-150 King Ranch 4x4 crew cab: $55,355
Chevrolet Silverado High Country 4x4 crew cab: $55,300
Nissan Titan Platinum Reserve 4x4 crew cab: $56,800
2018 Ram 1500 Longhorn 4x4 crew cab: $53,595
Toyota Tundra 1794 4x4 crew cab: $50,330
Source: Autotrader

Outstanding features

The F-150 diesel doesn't have the biggest towing capacity among full-size pickups, or even in the F-150 line, but its combination of an 11,400-pound max, strong torque for good towing and decent fuel economy—up to 30 mpg on the highway in EPA tests—give it a unique set of attributes that are like catnip to mostly well-heeled buyers who tow horses, boats and campers. Ford also expects to sell a handful of diesel F-150s as straight-up work trucks.

The diesel is quiet and smooth, thanks to recent upgrades to the engine family, which Ford has built in the U.K. for years, and which also included diesels powering Land Rover luxury SUVs. Extra sound insulation under the hood helps assure that occupants of the F-150's roomy cab probably won't hear any more engine noise than they would from a gasoline engine.

The lavishly equipped King Ranch 4x4 crew cab I tested could tow 10,100 pounds. That's 890 more than a 2018 Ram 1500 diesel's max towing capacity, and a whopping 1,520 pounds more than a comparable loaded four-door.

The King Ranch is a luxurious and comfortable vehicle, with the kind of passenger space—particularly rear leg room and head room—generally associated with limos.

It's available with the latest driver assistance features and has good, easy-to-use controls and voice recognition for features like audio, navigation and smartphones.

The downside

The diesel's stop-start, which shuts the engine off when it's idling at a stoplight or in traffic, is very noticeable. The vibration can be felt by everybody in the cab when it restarts the engine to resume driving.

The F-150 is brilliantly engineered for maneuverability and drivability, but there's no disguising the fact that a 4x4 F-150 crew cab is a huge vehicle. It fills up a residential street and turns the search for a downtown parking spot into a quest worthy of the recent "Amazing Race" episode shot in Detroit.

The option price for the diesel is competitive with what Ram charges for its less powerful 3.0L V6 diesel, but still, $3,000-$4,995 is a big ask. People who spend lots of time towing long distances may gravitate to the F-150 diesel but it's not likely to convert many new owners to diesel.

Specifications as tested
Engine: 3.0L turbocharged diesel V6.
Power: 250 @ 3,250 horsepower rpm; 440 pound-feet of torque @ 1,750-2,250 rpm
Transmission: 10-speed automatic
Wheelbase: 145.0inches
Length: 231.9 inches
Width: 79.9 inches
Height: 77.2 inches
Curb Weight: 5,721 lbs.
Where assembled: Dearborn, Mich.

Facts and figures

The 3.0L V6's 250 hp is slightly more than the output of Ram's diesel. More important, the Ford engine produces 440 pound-feet of torque from just 1,750 rpm, the kind of immediate power that makes it easy to pull a trailer out of a muddy corral. Fiat Chrysler V6 generates 420 pound-feet at 2,000 rpm, good performance but likely to be a noticeable difference when you try to reach highway speed on an entrance ramp while towing a fifth-wheel camper.

The EPA rates the most efficient F-150 diesel at 22 mpg in town, 30 on the highway and 25 combined. It scored 20/25/22 in the heavier, well-equipped King Ranch 4x4 I tested.

A comparably equipped 2018 Ram 1500 diesel matched the F-150 at 22 mpg in combined driving.

Both diesels beat the fuel efficiency of V-8 gasoline pickups by several miles per gallon.

Competitive EPA fuel economy ratings
(Automatic transmission, 4wd crew cab models)
Ford F-150 King Ranch 4x4 diesel crew cab: 20 city/25 highway/25 combined. Diesel.
Chevrolet Silverado High Country 4x4 crew cab: 16/22/18. Regular gasoline.
Nissan Titan Platinum Reserve 4x4 crew cab: 15/21/18. Regular gasoline.
2018 Ram 1500 Longhorn 4x4 diesel crew cab: 19/27/22. Diesel.
Toyota Tundra 1794 4x4 crew cab: 13/17/14. Regular gasoline.
Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

The verdict

The combination of fuel economy, power and towing capacity give the F-150 diesel a significant advantage for buyers who do a lot of towing. The engine's smooth and quiet operation remove two main reasons Americans resisted diesels in the past.

Add that to a pickup that has earned its spot as America's perennial bestseller and you have a pricey but worthwhile addition to the F-series.

Key features on vehicle tested

Standard equipment: Antilock brakes; stability control; front seat side air bags; curtain air bags; LED box lighting; auto start-stop; push button start; backup camera; remote start; Sirius satellite radio voice recognition; navigation; touch screen; reverse parking sensors; trailer brake controller; USB ports; Bluetooth compatible; power sliding rear window; LED headlights, taillights and fog lights; power locks windows, seats; remote tailgate release; damped tailgate; heated rear seats; 10-way power front seats; 60/40 fold up rear seat; 110-volt outlet; heated/cooled front seats; leather bucket front seats; memory for driver settings; power tilt and telescope steering column;

Options: Diesel engine; tailgate step; power running boards; inflatable rear safety belts; blind spot and cross traffic alerts; King ranch chrome package; 20-inch chrome wheels; spray-in bedliner; wheel well liner; all-terrain tires.

Mark Phelan is the Detroit Free Press auto critic. He can be reached at mmphelan@freepress.com.

Life & Style

Gala opens countdown to 50th anniversary of 1st moon landing

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Former NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin was noticeably absent from a gala kicking off a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, even though his nonprofit space education foundation is a sponsor and he typically is the star attraction.

No explanation was given for Aldrin's absence from the Apollo Celebration Gala on Saturday evening. But the former astronaut is locked in a legal battle with family members who say he is suffering from mental decline. The black-tie event, held under a Saturn V rocket at the Kennedy Space Center, featured a panel discussion by astronauts, an awards ceremony, and an auction of space memorabilia.

Hundreds of people attended the sold-out event, including British physicist Brian Cox, who presented Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson with the ShareSpace Foundation's Innovation award.

Branson, whose company is developing a new generation of commercial spacecraft, said in a recorded video that the Apollo missions influenced his generation.

"Space is still hard, really hard. It still really matters," Branson said. "There would be no Virgin Galactic, no Virgin Orbit and no spaceship company had it not been for Apollo astronauts and the thousands of talented people who made their mission possible."

Dr. Carolyn Williams of the nonprofit From One Hand To AnOTHER received the foundation's Education award, and former Johnson Space Center director Gerry Griffin, a flight director for all of the crewed Apollo missions, was honored with the Pioneer award.

"It's very humbling, it kind of came out of the blue," Griffin said. "It is so neat to know that we've passed the torch that will let this next generation take us to this next step."

That next step, Griffin said, is a return of Americans to the Moon and, eventually, Mars—something former Apollo astronauts Walt Cunningham, Harrison Schmitt, Rusty Schweickart and Tom Stafford discussed during a conversation with Cox.

"We're sort of going through a second door here. The door isn't all the way open—we haven't gone all the way through it—but it's cracked open," Schweickart, who flew as the lunar module pilot on Apollo 9, told The Associated Press. "Space is going to be much less expensive to go to, and that's going to open up not just opportunities for people to fly, but because of the decreased cost, real opportunities for innovators to generate new ideas and to do things that have never been done before."

Aldrin's ShareSpace Foundation is one of the sponsors of the annual gala, which raises money for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics—or STEAM education—and Astronaut Scholarship Foundation scholarships.

Author tells of kidnapping by pirates he'd gone to interview

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Scott Moore is walking a bit gingerly these days, but it has nothing to do with the 2½ years he spent imprisoned by Somali pirates, the beatings he suffered, his time spent in chains or the lousy food that caused him to lose 40 pounds.

"I got thumped by a wave surfing off Manhattan Beach the other day," the author of "The Desert and the Sea: 977 days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast" says with a sheepish grin. "I've got a cracked rib."

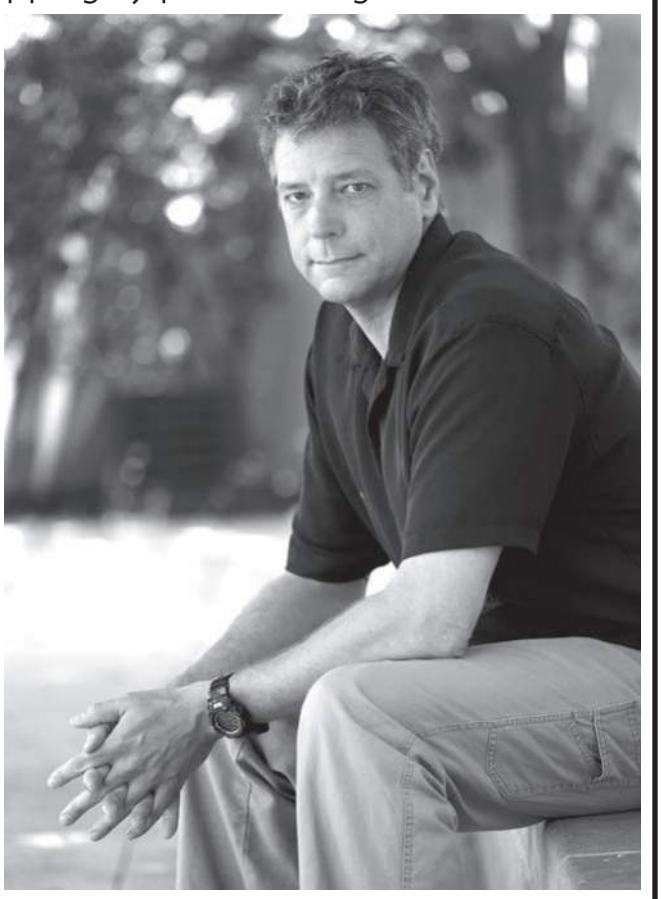
Otherwise Moore, freed by his pirate captors in 2014 after his mother raised a $1.6 million ransom, looks fine. He's dressed casually in a dark blue shirt and jeans as he sits down in the shade of the century-old art-deco building that houses Los Angeles' downtown library to talk about his latest book.

"The Desert and the Sea" goes on sale Tuesday, and its 49-year-old author is about to embark on a cross-country tour of readings and signings.

The page-turning thriller, published by Harper Collins, takes readers on a relentless journey as Moore reveals the squalid living conditions that nearly killed him, the beatings he endured and the thoughts of suicide he weighed, along with other thoughts of grabbing one of his captor's machine guns (they were careless about leaving them lying around) and seeing how many of them he could kill before they killed him.

"I don't know," he says with a smile when asked how he survived it all.

After several seconds of quiet contemplation, he adds that a combination of giving up any immediate hope of freedom and living in the moment helped. So did maintaining a sense of humor while trapped in a very unfunny situation. Thus, the book contains several darkly comic moments.



In this June 20, 2018 photo, Michael Scott Moore, author of "The Desert and the Sea: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast," poses for a portrait at Los Angeles Public Library in Los Angeles. AP

Like the one when Moore hid the keys to the chains the pirates kept him in after he tried to escape by leaping from an old fishing vessel and attempting to swim to shore. They never could find them and had to buy a new set, something that delighted their captive.

Or the time one of the friendlier pirates, knowing Moore holds dual U.S.-German citizenship, woke him one morning to say excitedly that Germany, that year's World Cup winner, defeated Brazil 7-1 in the semifinal game. Moore dismissed the news as "more pirate bull---," replying that no team scores seven goals in a soccer game. Then he turned on the radio and learned it was true.

Moore first thought of writing a book about modern-day piracy when he came across examples of it in coastal African and southeast Asian nations he visited while seeking out some of the world's best surfing spots for a 2010 book. "Sweetness and Blood," documenting how a loose-knit band of hippies, star-struck wanderers and U.S. military personnel helped turn an ancient Hawaiian sport into an international pop-culture phenomenon, has been hailed as arguably the best historical account of modern-day surfing.

'Equalizer 2' squeaks past 'Mamma Mia 2' and takes top spot

In the battle of two very different sequels at the box office this weekend, Denzel Washington's action pic "The Equalizer 2" has narrowly won out over the ABBA jukebox musical "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again."

Studios on Sunday estimate that the R-rated Denzel Washington joint grossed $35.8 million from North American theaters over the weekend. It's Washington's first ever sequel and the biggest opening of director Antoine Fuqua's career. The first "Equalizer," from 2014, opened similarly and went on to earn over $190 million worldwide.

Second place went to Universal Pictures' "Mamma Mia 2," which took in $34.4 million, a sum that was driven by an audience that was 83 percent female and 64 percent over the age of 25. The film brought back much of the original cast, like Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried and Pierce Brosnan, and added Cher, Andy Garcia and Lily James to the mix. Critics overall gave the sequel better marks than the first, which still went on to gross over $600 million worldwide 10 years ago.

"We consider this a terrific opening," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "And knowing the audience for these types of films, we are going to have a very healthy run at the domestic and worldwide box office. This is a very fun, very uplifting movie that people need right now."

It's also a rare showdown of two star-driven films that succeeded in targeting two very different audiences.

"It's amazing how well-matched these contenders are," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Both studios really did a great job of marketing each of these movies to their target audience. It's classic counter-programming."

Sequels powered the top six spots at the domestic box office this weekend and eight out of the top 10 overall. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" came in third with $23.2 million in its second weekend, "Ant-Man and the Wasp" took fourth place with $16.1 million in its third weekend, "Incredibles 2" landed in fifth with $11.5 million, and "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" came in sixth with $11 million.

1. **"The Equalizer 2**," $35.8 million *($3.3 million international)*.
2. "**Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again**," $34.4 million *($42.4 million international)*.
3. "**Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation**," $23.2 million *($37.7 million international)*.
4. "**Ant-Man and the Wasp**," $16.1 million *($21.6 million international)*.
5. "**Incredibles 2**," $11.5 million *($36.5 million international)*.
6. "**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom**," $11 million *($17.3 million international)*.
7. **"Skyscraper**," $11 million *($27.3 million international)*.
8. "**The First Purge**," $5 million *($8.9 million international)*.
9. "**Unfriended: Dark Web**," $3.5 million.
10. "**Sorry to Bother You**," $2.8 million.

The weekend's other big new opener, "Unfriended: Dark Web," also a sequel, scared up $3.5 million for a ninth-place start. The only two originals in the top 10 were "Skyscraper" and "Sorry to Bother You."

"People are enjoying these films," said Dergarabedian. "It doesn't matter if there's a number after the title."

And yet there are still original films and documentaries making their own modest impact on the charts, including "Blindspotting," a buddy comedy with some serious themes about race and class starring Tony-winner Daveed Diggs that opened in 14 theaters and made an estimated $332,500.

"Movies like 'Sorry to Bother You' and 'Blindspotting' are showing that in the summer people don't live by blockbusters alone," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Art dealer buys storage locker for $15,000, finds treasures

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City art dealer who bought the contents of a New Jersey storage locker filled with paintings for $15,000 says he got more than he bargained for.

He found half a dozen paintings he believes were done by artist Willem de Kooning, whose works have sold for millions of dollars at auction.

The New York Post reports David Killen bought the contents of the Ho-Ho-Kus (hoh-HOH'-kuhs), New Jersey, locker last year. The paintings were originally from the studio of art conservator Orrin Riley, who died in 1986, and his partner, Susanne Schnitzer, who died in 2009.

The paintings aren't signed, but Killen reached out to an expert who's confident they were done by de Kooning, an abstract expressionist from the Netherlands who moved to the United States and died in 1997.

Rapper Tekashi69 says men forced him from car, took jewelry

NEW YORK (AP)—The rapper known as Tekashi69 says two men forced him from a car at a New York City intersection and robbed him of jewelry.

The New York Police Department says the rapper went to a police precinct early Sunday to report what happened to him.

Authorities say he stated he had been the passenger in a car that was bumped by another vehicle around 4:30 a.m. in Brooklyn and the two men got out and forced him into their car.

Police say the rapper says the men forced him to call another man to bring him some personal property, which he did. Police say the rapper reports the men took an undisclosed amount of jewelry and left.

Police say the rapper became uncooperative after filing the report.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Opera based on Pink Floyd album 'The Wall' makes US debut

CINCINNATI (AP)—An opera based on Pink Floyd's album "The Wall" has made its U.S. debut in Cincinnati. "Another Brick in the Wall" opened Friday at Music Hall. It premiered in Montreal last year. Pierre Dufour's production follows a rock singer named Pink, who relives pivotal moments in his life during a stay at a mental health clinic. The opera includes all of the album's lyrics along with some melodic themes. Dufour says he believes the progressive rock album's story of love and loss makes it a great opera. "Another Brick" star Nathan Keoughan has the task of diving into Pink's "tortured" life. He says he believes many rock fans are attracted to the opera because of its creativity. The opera will run through July 31.

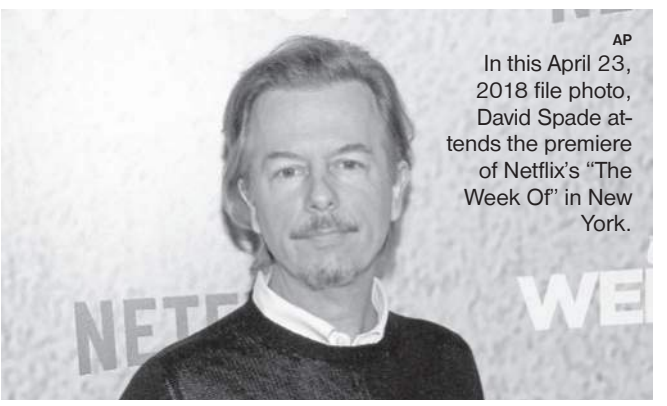
Bus crash leaves more than 20 ballet students injured

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A crash involving two buses in downtown Pittsburgh has left more than 20 ballet students injured. Authorities say the crash happened around 6 p.m. Sunday when one bus rear-ended another bus. Many students have been hospitalized with minor injuries. The buses were carrying students associated with a summer ballet program at Chatham University. The students range in age from 12 to 21, and are from multiple states.

Activist to star as TV's first transgender superhero

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—A transgender activist who won a discrimination lawsuit after her school refused to let her use the girls' bathroom will be TV's first transgender superhero. Nicole Maines will star in The CW/Warner Bros.' "Supergirl" as Nia Nal, aka Dreamer. Producers describe her character as a "soulful young transgender woman with a fierce drive to protect others." Maines gained national attention for her battle against her Orono, Maine school district over her right to use the girls' bathroom. Maine's highest court ruled in 2014 that school officials violated state anti-discrimination law when they required her to use a staff restroom. It was the first time a state high court concluded that a transgender person should use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify.

David Spade: Family coming together after Kate Spade's death



AP

In this April 23, 2018 file photo, David Spade attends the premiere of Netflix's "The Week Of" in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just a month after funeral services for his sister-in-law, comic-actor David Spade was back to business, promoting his new movie. But he also offered a few words about his family tragedy.

Fashion designer Kate Spade was married to David's brother, entrepreneur Andy Spade. Kate Spade killed herself in June. In an interview, David Spade said "everyone's pulling it together." He added: "I think we're getting in the best place we can at this point."

Less than three weeks after Spade's death, her father, Earl Brosnahan, died at age 89—the day before his daughter's funeral.

Shortly after his wife's death, Andy Spade released a statement noting she had "suffered from depression and anxiety." David Spade has made a $100,000 donation to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which provides education and support for families impacted by the disease.

When asked about the donation, Spade replied, "Well, I think there's a lot of people that are at a lot of different levels of situations. (New York) is a tough town. It gets stressful. And everybody feels like they're an inch away from a breakdown. It's very hard. So, you can't look down at those people. You just say, 'Hey! You help each other out if you can.'"

Spade's new film, the comedy "Father of the Year," made its Netflix debut Friday.

And now he is 5: Britain's Prince George marks birthday



AP

In this photo taken on Monday, July 9, 2018, Britain's Prince George poses for a picture following the christening of his brother Prince Louis, at Clarence House in London.

LONDON (AP)—Who doesn't like birthdays?

Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate have released a new photo of their son Prince George to mark his fifth birthday.

The photo shows George grinning in the garden of Clarence House after the christening of his younger brother Prince Louis on July 9.

George is third in line for the British throne. His grandfather, Prince Charles, is heir to the throne and his father William comes next.

George has seemed increasingly self-assured in public this year, serving as a page boy at Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle in May at Windsor Castle and making several other appearances.

Lady Antebellum calls police lip sync of its song 'amazing'

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio police department's entry in a lip sync challenge sweeping the nation has gotten rave reviews—including from the country music group whose song is featured.

Middletown police Chief Rodney Muterspaw says he's "overwhelmed" by the response to a video his department created as part of a national lip sync challenge among police departments. The Hamilton-Middletown Journal-News reports among fans of the video is the band Lady Antebellum, which tweeted that the police department's cover of its song "Need You Now" is "amazing."

Since its posting on Wednesday the video has been viewed more than 2 million times.

The police chief says it took about an hour to shoot the video. He says some officers were reluctant at first but everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

Man loses focus on life after close friend's death

DEAR ABBY: A lifelong friend of mine has died unexpectedly. Because he was my age, this brought up issues of my own mortality. We'd had our ups and downs over 25 years, but he moved cross-country to the same city as I'm in and was there for many happy and sad life events, including the deaths of my remaining immediate family and his parents.

I have a wonderful wife and amazing children. We are pretty active and have stressful jobs, so there is little time to be engaged, which leaves me feeling guilty about being less than 100 percent for her and the kids. We have a newborn, and he is a star among stars for me, so I feel even more need to be present at all times.

My friend's death has brought up painful feelings I thought I was over—like the feeling of being an "orphan" (even though I have extended family, I have no immediate family left). Losing someone my age has hit me hard, which I honestly didn't anticipate. I know I'm focusing on the wrong things, like some missed opportunities, but I can't seem to move past them. I feel so drained and useless. Any help would be appreciated.

MISSING MY FRIEND IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR MISSING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your good friend. The death of someone close can affect people in many different ways. For some, the reminder that life isn't infinite can trigger them to re-evaluate their relationships or how they have been living their lives.

Because you seem to be unable to move past your feelings of abandonment, which many people experience after the loss of their parents, consider joining a grief support group to help you to work through some of these thoughts you are experiencing. However, if that isn't enough, a licensed therapist may help you to regain your balance.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's significant other fathered her two children and seemed dedicated to his family. He worked hard to support and care for them. Then, almost overnight, it all changed.

My daughter is now a single (unemployed) mom with two little ones under 4. She needs help, and I need advice about how to best help her. It appears they'll need to move in with us (an arrangement that will be stressful for all). Life is a bowl of lemons, and I need a good recipe for lemonade. Help, please!

READY TO PITCH IN

DEAR READY: This would be my recipe: The first thing you adults should do is remind yourselves that this won't be forever—only until your daughter is able to find a job, get back on her feet and the children are in day care. Repeat it to yourselves out loud when necessary, and it may help you retain your sanity when life becomes stressful.

Next, help your daughter ensure that the children's father continues to provide financially for them. If he is resistant, an attorney may be able to help, and so can government agencies in every state.

And last, give the new additions to your household all the love and understanding you can—which I am sure you are already doing because you seem like a very nice person. This, too, will pass.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

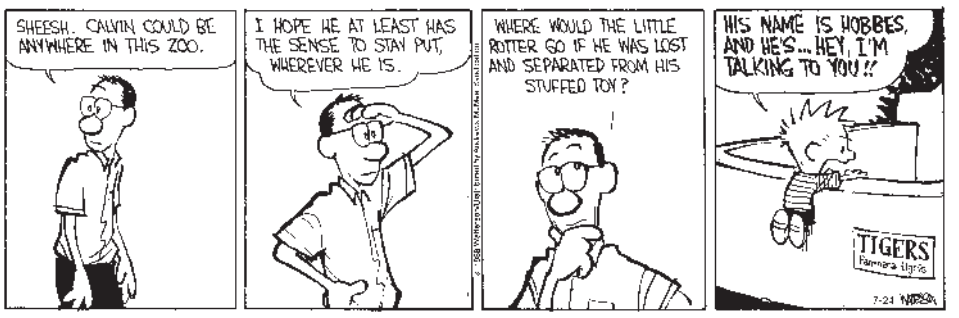


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

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By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

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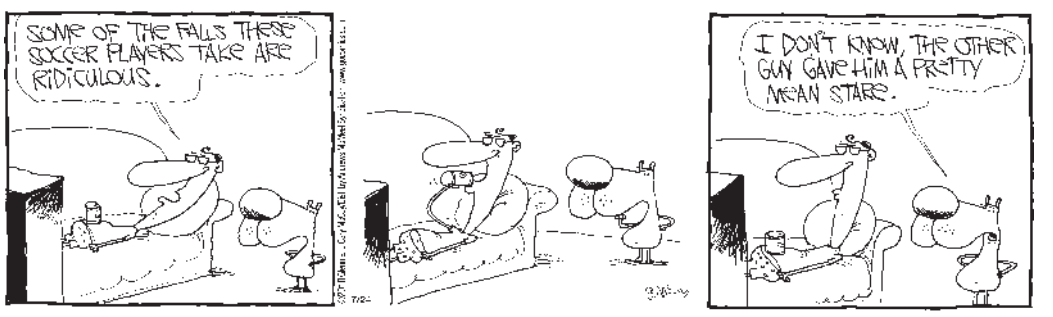
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tropical tree
5 Guys' dates
9 Ran into
12 Dog bane
13 Satan's forte
14 Chopper
15 Sweepstakes award, often
17 Resort
18 Cask sediment
19 Group spirit
21 Pale
24 Tennis great Lendl
25 — gum (thickener)
26 Harbor blaze fighter
30 Scale members
31 Carnival attractions
32 Eastern path
33 Olympics hopefuls
35 Bacterium
36 Greet the villain
37 Social worker's load
38 Garlicky mayo
40 Slanted type (Abbr.)
42 Post-op area
43 Instrument panel
48 — Moines
49 Wrinkly fruit
50 Portent
51 Noshed
52 Greek vowels
53 Forum wear

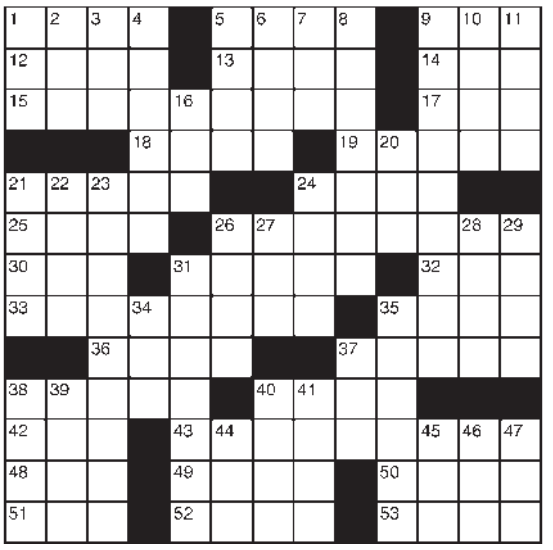
DOWN

1 USMC rank
2 Mode lead-in
3 French article
4 Composer Gustav
5 "Arbitrage" star Richard
6 Rara —
7 Actress Taylor
8 Shirt parts
9 Gushy love letters
10 Big fair, for short
11 Herbal brews
16 Signing need
20 Bar bill
21 Taj Mahal city
22 Fat
23 Diner, maybe
24 Enrages
26 Belongs
27 Chemical suffix
28 Swiss river
29 Male turkeys
31 Leftover matter
34 Like Abner
35 Clumsy person
37 Taxi
38 Verdi opera
39 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
40 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
41 Not that
44 Literary rep
45 I love (Lat.)
46 Rule, for short
47 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	F	T	S	■	B	O	B	■	A	I	A	B
S	A	R	A	S	O	T	A	■	M	A	T	A
G	R	A	■	U	I	T	Y	■	A	I	M	S
■	■	■	O	I	L	■	B	E	L	L	E	S
S	T	C	U	T	■	D	E	A	F	■	■	■
R	A	P	■	■	V	A	R	S	I	T	Y	■
A	L	A	■	W	O	R	K	Y	■	H	C	O
■	C	L	A	R	I	T	Y	■	J	O	G	S
■	■	■	L	E	C	H	■	A	E	R	I	E
R	E	F	■	N	E	■	C	F	T	■	■	■
E	R	I	C	■	B	A	N	A	L	I	T	Y
S	I	S	■	■	O	P	E	R	A	T	C	R
P	E	T	A	■	X	E	S	■	G	O	C	S

Yesterday's answer 7-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elisabeth Moss, 36; Anna Paquin, 36; Jennifer Lopez, 49; Kristin Chenoweth, 50.

Happy Birthday: Be positive, but don't feel the need to make changes without proper research. You'll be inclined to take on too much or to make promises that are unrealistic this year if you aren't careful. Much can be accomplished if you use intelligence as well as enlist the help of others. Know what you want and stick to the basics. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 24, 29, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Being a good listener will help you avoid an emotional falling-out with one of your friends, relatives or associates. Mull over what's being said and consider the best way to make what's put in front of you work. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Hard work will bring about positive change. Listen to experts and come up with solutions that will benefit everyone. If you leave someone out of the mix, you will face opposition. Take your time and do things by the book. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Set the stage for success. Don't be afraid to step into the limelight and use your home base as your building block for future endeavors. Refuse to let anyone use emotional means to deter you from moving forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Know what and whom you are up against before you step into the ring. Use your imagination and ability to visualize what it is you want to do. Having a solid plan will make it difficult for others to interfere. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take a close look at your options; assess what others are doing. Don't feel you have to follow the crowd or get involved in something that is excessive financially or physically. Be honest with others as well as with yourself. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stop thinking and start doing. You can bring about positive changes that will make you feel more comfortable about the direction your life is heading. Listen to someone you trust; it will prompt you to move forward with gusto. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Deal with those who are standing in your way. Obtaining a clear passage to pursue your goals will be essential if you want to be successful. Don't put up with complainers. Make your position known and proceed on your own. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Too broad an outlook will lead to uncertainty. Tighten up your plans and look for alternatives that will allow you the freedom to make adjustments as you move forward. To eliminate undue stress, don't make promises. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Share an honest opinion when dealing with friends, relatives or peers. It's important not to lead anyone on if you want to maintain a stellar reputation. Don't reveal personal secrets or passwords. Diplomacy will be required to counter an unexpected reaction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Your emotions will lead to positive changes. Don't fight the inevitable when you should embrace it. If someone doesn't like the choices you make, that's OK -- as long as you don't let him or her interfere in your plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Share your innovative ideas with people you feel you can assist. What you do for others will help deter an argument that can influence how or where you work. Avoid an argument, regardless of what others do or say. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Your reputation will get a boost, and a chance to get ahead financially looks promising. A partnership will put you on solid ground personally and professionally. Make special plans with someone you love; together you'll build a stronger relationship. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, outgoing and charitable. You are adaptable and progressive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			6	9				1
	2		5				4	
		6				7		
			7		5		8	2
8								6
4	3		2		6			
		7				3		
	4				7		5	
5				4	8			9

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	2	3	8	6	9	1	5
5	1	6	9	2	7	4	8	3
9	3	8	4	1	5	6	2	7
6	4	5	7	9	2	8	3	1
3	8	1	5	6	4	7	9	2
2	9	7	8	3	1	5	6	4
8	2	4	1	5	9	3	7	6
7	6	9	2	4	3	1	5	8
1	5	3	6	7	8	2	4	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LYFT **Solution: 7 letters**

D	O	P	P	A	E	L	I	B	O	M	K	E	A	R
I	C	M	U	S	I	C	(E)	A	C	C	E	S	S	R
S	S	U	R	P	R	I	(M)	E	A	D	R	N	U	E
T	I	B	C	I	T	Y	(I)	R	S	R	A	E	L	I
A	C	T	E	R	D	R	(T)	I	E	I	F	C	P	M
N	N	S	D	K	R	E	E	V	D	V	T	I	G	E
C	A	I	I	N	R	E	S	G	A	E	I	L	R	R
E	R	F	R	S	A	O	M	H	N	R	L	E	E	P
H	F	F	M	H	R	M	W	M	A	E	P	X	E	U
C	N	F	I	O	E	A	E	T	I	R	S	U	N	K
A	A	O	Z	R	A	L	I	D	E	Z	I	S	N	C
T	S	P	I	T	E	N	I	L	N	N	N	N	A	I
S	T	O	P	E	G	A	R	E	V	O	C	H	G	P
U	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T	A	T	I	O	N
M	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	Y	R	U	X	U	L	J

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Yesterday's Answer: Whitening

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Requirements: Minimum 5 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers.

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Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Employment Opportunity

Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest and previous experience in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Council's administrative, financial, and program activities under the supervision of the Council's Executive Committee. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). a Bachelor's degree (Master's degree preferred) in an area of the humanities from an accredited post-secondary institution; (2). supervisory experience of at least three years as a director of programs preferably relating to the humanities and at least three years of experience in Federal programs administration preferably in an area relating to the humanities; (3). a solid knowledge of accounting, budgeting, financial management, marketing and strategic planning; (4). demonstrated experience with resource development, fundraising strategies, and cultivating donor relations; (5). an in-depth knowledge of Northern Mariana Islands culture, history, political and social developments, current events, and he/she must have familiarity with the Pacific region as a whole; (6). an ability to work well in a multicultural setting and a high level of communication and leadership skills.

The salary range is from $50,000 to $55,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed resume with proof of educational attainment; and (3). the names and addresses of three references to:

Polly DLG. Masga
Board Chairperson, Northern Marianas Humanities Council
P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP, 96950

Complete application packages must be received by the Council on or before **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2018.** The Council reserves the right to extend the submission deadline at its convenience. For more information about this employment opportunity, please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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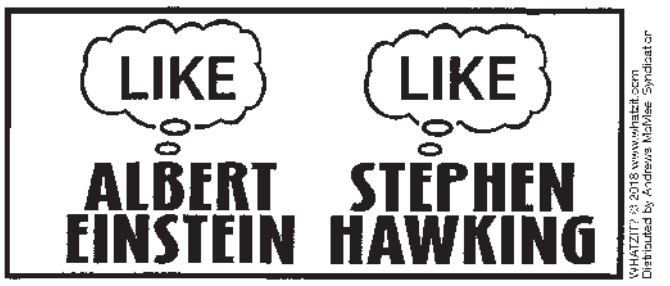
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Sale wins 5th straight start, lifts Red Sox vs Tigers

DETROIT (AP)—Chris Sale is drawing comparisons from his manager to another dominant left-hander.

"He's reminding me a lot of Randy—Randy Johnson," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "The thing with Randy, it looked like he was always grinding. With (Sale) it looks effortless right now."

Sale struck out nine in six scoreless innings, and Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a three-run homer to lift the Red Sox to a 9-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday. Sale allowed two hits, lowered his ERA to an American League-best 2.13 and won his sixth straight decision.

The Red Sox are 19-4 in their last 23 games, and the AL East leaders cruised through the finale of this series after scoring just one run in the previous twonights at Detroit.

Blaine Hardy (3-3) allowed four runs and five hits in three-plus innings. Jeimer Candelario homered for the Tigers in the seventh.

Sale (11-4) has won each of his last five starts, allowing one run in 33 innings in that span. He had gone five straight starts with at least 11 strikeouts—and only one walk in each—but that streak came to an end when he was lifted Sunday after 99 pitches.

"I feel good. I feel like a broken record sometimes, but we scored nine runs today?" Sale said. "You get a padded lead like that, you can kind of dig in and just try to find a groove and keep going."



AP
Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Sunday, July 22, 2018, in Detroit.

Dodgers 11, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Manny Machado had a double to drive in his first run since he was acquired from Baltimore, Matt Kemp hit a pair of solo homers off Brent Suter (8-7) and Chris Taylor had three RBI for the NL West leaders.

Alex Wood (6-5) won his fifth straight decision, allowing two runs, five hits and three walks in six innings.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 2

In Chicago, Matt Carpenter's streak of consecutive games with home runs ended at six as Jose Quintana (9-6) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings.

Kyle Schwarber hit a tie-breaking solo homer off Mike Mayers (2-1) with two outs in the sixth.

St. Louis has lost seven of 11.

Athletics 6, Giants 5

In Oakland, Jeurys Familia got the win in his Oakland debut when Marcus Semien scored from second base on Matt Chapman's infield chopper in the 10th inning.

A day after he was acquired from the Mets, Familia (1-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings.

Angels 14, Astros 5

In Anaheim, Mike Trout drove in a teammate for the first time in more than a month, homering to cap a seven-run burst in seventh inning.

Trout hit his 26th home run, a drive off Chris Devenski that followed Andrelton Simmons' single. Trout's only RBI since June 19 had been a pair of solo homers.

Andrew Heaney (6-6) won his fourth consecutive home start.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 4

In Toronto, Yangervis Solarte hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning off Tanner Scott (1-2), and Toronto rallied from a 4-1 deficit to complete a three-game sweep. The Blue Jays are 9-1 against the Orioles this season, including seven straight wins.

Baltimore has lost 20 of its last 25 games and is a big league-worst 28-72.

Padres 10, Phillies 2
Phillies 5, Padres 0

In Philadelphia, Vince Velasquez (6-8) allowed two hits over seven innings, struck out seven and walked one to gain the split and Philadelphia widened its NL East lead to one game over second-place Atlanta.

Odubel Herrera hit a solo homer in the fourth against Luis Perdomo (1-5). After a pair of batters reached against Perdomo in the seventh, Carlos Santana hit a bloop run-scoring single against Phil Maton and Rhys Hoskins added his second homer of the day and 16th this season, a three-run drive.

Tyson Ross (6-8) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings in the opener. He had been 0-5 in seven starts since beating Cincinnati on June 3, losing his previous three outings.

Pirates 9, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Corey Dickerson homered for the fourth time in three days, and Pittsburgh extended a winning streak to nine for the first time since June 2013.

Dickerson and Starling Marte hit consecutive homers in a four-run second off Matt Harvey (5-6), who allowed eight runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Nationals 6, Braves 2

In Washington, Bryce Harper homered and Max Scherzer (13-5) won his third straight start, striking out seven in six innings while allowing two runs and eight hits.

Kelvin Herrera got five outs for his first save with Washington, and Anthony Rendon had two hits and drove in two runs.

Rays 6, Marlins 4

In St. Petersburg, pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson connected for a game-ending grand slam off Kyle Barraclough (0-4).

Tampa Bay right-hander Chris Archer struck out 13 in six innings. But he allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits in front of scouts from several playoff contenders.

Royals 5, Twins 3

In Kansas City, slow-footed catcher Drew Butera broke a 2-2 tie with a three-run, inside-the-park home run off Zach Duke (3-4) when center fielder Jake Cave failed in his attempt to make a diving catch in the seventh inning.

Kansas City swept a series for the first time since last July 24-26 at Detroit.

Rangers 5, Indians 0

In Arlington, rougned Odor drove in three runs, Ryan Rua hit a two-run homer and Texas withstood the heat on a 108-degree afternoon to stop a four-game losing streak.

Yovani Gallardo (4-1) and three relievers combined on a five-hitter against the AL Central leader.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 1

In Phoenix, Zack Greinke (11-5) allowed two hits and struck out a season-high 13 in eight innings to stop Colorado's seven-game winning streak and move ahead of the Rockies back into second in the NL West, 1+ games behind the Dodgers.

Nick Ahmed drove in three runs with a two-run triple and bases-loaded walk.

Mariners 8, White Sox 2

In Seattle, Ryon Healy hit a pair of three-run homers for a career-best six RBI,.

Healy homered in a five-run first off Reynaldo Lopez (4-8) and in the eighth against Hector Santiago, giving him 20 homers and 53 RBI this season.

Bears banking on familiarity to boost solid defense

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. (AP)—While the Chicago Bears gave their offense a makeover, their defense looks awfully familiar.

That's just the way they wanted it.

The Bears are banking on continuity to turn a top-10 defense into an elite unit and help a struggling franchise emerge as a contender.

"I think it's huge," cornerback Prince Amukamara said. "You look at all the great defenses the last couple of years—the 49ers, Seattle, Denver—you see a lot of those core pieces stick together and that's what we're trying to do here."

The Bears spent the offseason making sweeping changes on offense in an effort to get the most out of quarterback Mitchell Trubisky and lift a team with four straight last-place finishes in the NFC North.

They hired coach Matt Nagy to replace the fired John Fox. They also gave their prized quarterback some new play-making options, signing former Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson from Jacksonville and Philadelphia tight end Trey Burton.

With the moves, the Bears believe they are positioning themselves to end this losing run. It doesn't hurt, either, to have a strong defense.

Chicago drafted a potential cornerstone player when it took Georgia linebacker Roquan Smith with the No. 8 overall pick. But the Bears largely maintained continuity despite the head coaching change.

Defensive coordinator Vic Fangio interviewed for that job and was free to go elsewhere with an expiring contract. But he chose to re-sign after Nagy was hired. That was a big relief to the Bears and their fans, considering the strides the defense made in his first three years.

That group has gone from ranking among the worst in franchise history to a top-10 unit last season. But the Bears still need a few more playmakers to emerge if they're going to become the modern day "Monsters of the Midway."

"I think we've need to go back out there and fix the little things that we did wrong last year and hopefully make it into the top five," defensive end Akiem Hicks said. "That was my goal going into OTAs and it's still my goal now."

Chicago's defense ranked 10th overall last season, seventh against the pass, ninth in scoring and 11th against the run. The Bears also tied for seventh in sacks despite injuries to several players, including linebacker Leonard Floyd.

But when it came to forcing turnovers, the results were mixed for Chicago. The Bears led the league with 14 fumble recoveries. But with eight interceptions, only two teams picked off fewer passes. That's something safety Eddie Jackson thinks will change in his second NFL season.

Ice-cold Molinari repels slew of challengers

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP)—Rory McIlory spun around and let out a roar after making a 35-foot eagle putt. Justin Rose clenched his fist after taming the 18th hole for a fourth straight day. Xander Schauffele kept his composure amid the chaos of an ever-changing leaderboard.

Kevin Kisner? He stuck around like he has done all week.

In a wild finish to the British Open, what all four ended up needing was a mistake or two from Francesco Molinari down one of the toughest closing stretches in golf.

It didn't happen.

McIlroy, Rose, Schauffele and Kisner finished in a tie for second place as the world's oldest major championship avoided a fourth straight playoff at Carnoustie to determine the Champion Golfer of the Year.

Ultimately, Molinari's technique held up amid the fiercest pressure. He enjoyed a two-shot victory Sunday, with a 6-foot birdie at the last hole earning him separation from the pack chasing him.

"One guy out of 156 is going to win," McIlroy said, "and 155 other guys are going to leave a little disappointed."

There were contrasting emotions for the four guys who finished closest to Molinari.

For Rose, there was pride at getting so near after needing a birdie on No. 18 on Friday to even make it to the weekend. He followed up a 64 on Saturday—the lowest round of the week—with a 69 on Sunday to post the first realistic clubhouse target at 6 under par.

"I hadn't felt the energy of the crowd for a while in the Open," said Rose, who had his best finish at his home major. "That was a real positive for me, and it renewed the love of the Open for me."

Rose birdied the fearsome 18th hole in all four rounds, one of the more impressive feats of the week.

For McIlroy, the only regret was that he started his charge too late. He bogeyed two of his first five holes to leave him six shots off the lead, only for the long eagle putt at No. 14, which elicited one of the most striking celebrations of the tournament, to put him in a five-way share of the lead about 1+ hours later.

He parred his way home for a 70, any realistic hope of winning the British Open for the second time disappearing when he pushed his wedge into 18 and failed to make the birdie putt.

"I didn't get off to a great start, but I hung in there and I battled back," McIlroy said. "Just sort of ran out of holes at the end."

McIlroy remained without a major victory since winning his fourth at the PGA Championship in 2014.

With Jordan Spieth failing to make a birdie all round, the best chance of the United States having a sixth straight major champion fell to the two players with whom he shared the third-round lead—Schauffele and Kisner.

Schauffele was playing in the final pairing at a major for the first time.

"Chaotic is probably the best way to put it," he said with a smile.

The 24-year-old from California kept playing with a smile on his face despite finding himself, as he described it, "in the strangest spots possible on the golf course" with playing partner Spieth.

Schauffele made bogies on Nos. 5 and 6, then double bogey on No. 7 after leaving one shot in the wispy grass and sending his next over the green.

Another dropped shot at the 17th meant he needed to hole his approach to No. 18 for eagle to force a playoff, but it settled about 12 feet short. Molinari, sitting on a sofa and watching TV in what looked like a scoring trailer, could finally celebrate.

"It's just going to go in the memory bank as a positive," said Schauffele, who was playing only his second British Open. "I had a chance to win a major championship. I was in the final group. I had to face a little bit of adversity early in the round, and I still gave myself a chance.

"Anyone can look at it however they want to, but I'm going to look at it as a positive moving forward, and try to learn how to handle the situations a little better next time."

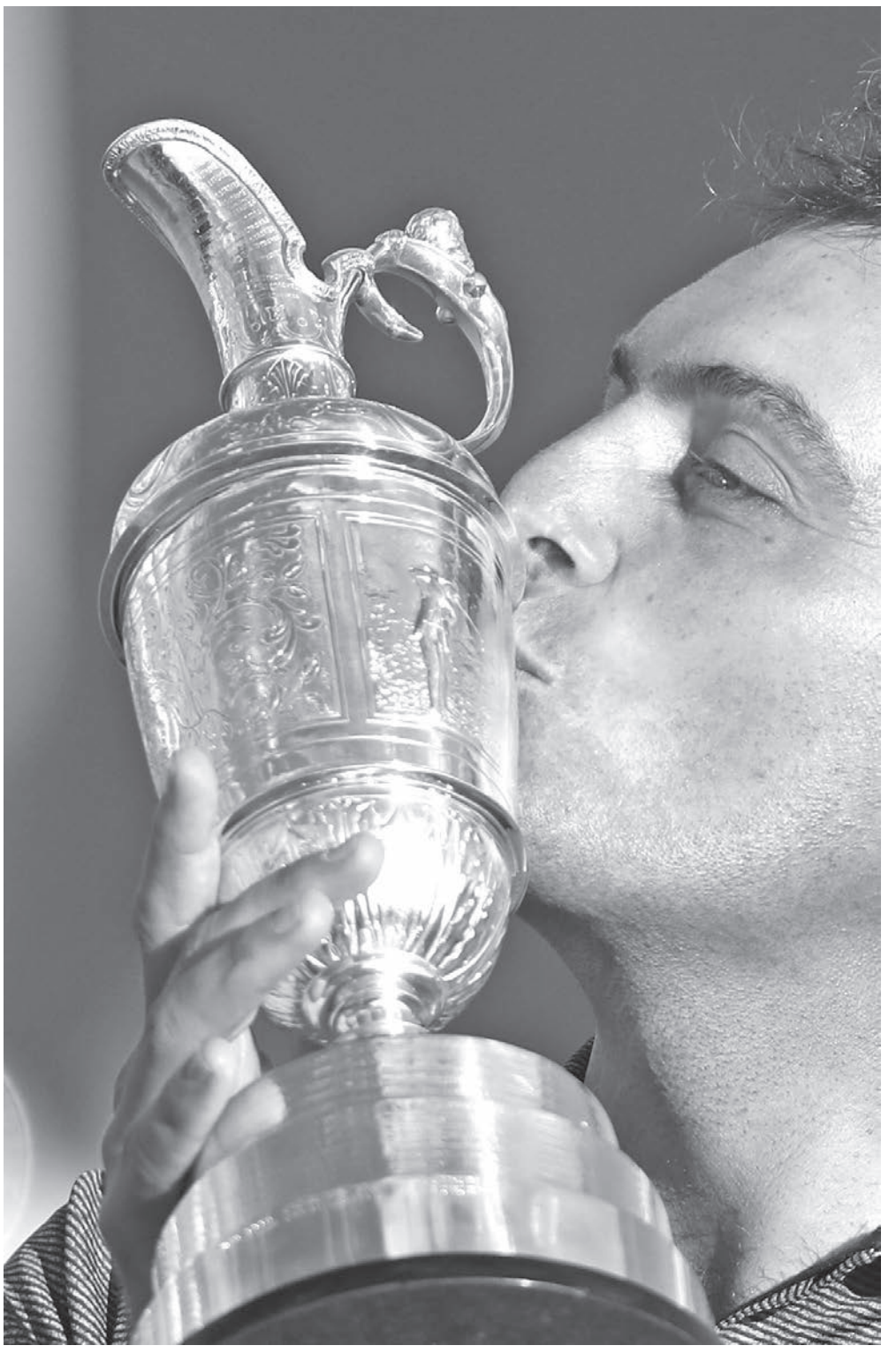
And then there was Kisner, looking to go wire-to-wire. A double-bogey 6 after finding a bunker off the tee at the second hole was followed by a bogey at the next as Kisner struggled to deal with an early stiff wind.

His birdie at No. 10 got him back in a tie for the lead, but he was another victim of the 12th—the hardest hole of the week—and he never caught up with Molinari.

Tiger Woods briefly had the lead outright midway through his round. Kevin Chappell had a putt to tie the lead with Molinari at No. 16 before making double bogey on the next.

Even Eddie Pepperell, teeing off in the morning with a hangover, potentially could have made a playoff after a 67.

Ultimately, they were just three more players to be denied by the ice-cold Molinari.



AP
Francesco Molinari of Italy kisses the trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Sunday July 22, 2018.

Woods does everything but win

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP)—For a proud man who spent the majority of his prime scoffing at silver linings and moral victories, Tiger Woods needed little cajoling to look at the bright side Sunday at Carnoustie.

Sure, after a round in which he took the solo lead at The Open with nine holes to go, the first words out of Woods' mouth were that he was "a little ticked off at myself" for squandering an opportunity to capture his 15th major title, and his first in more than a decade. And that immediate reaction was justified: In the stiffest winds of the week, he played his last eight holes in 2 over, missed low on a 6-footer on the final green and wound up in a tie for sixth, three shots behind his playing partner, Francesco Molinari.

"Today was a day," Woods said, "that I had a great opportunity."

But here's where we take a deep breath.

Imagine typing those words three months ago. Six months ago. Nine months ago. Twelve months ago.

The scenario was improbable.

Inconceivable.

Impossible.

At this time last year, Woods was only a few months removed from a Hail Mary fusion surgery; from a humiliating DUI arrest in which he was found slumped behind the wheel of his car, with five drugs in his system; from a month-long stay in a rehab clinic to manage his sleep medications.

Just last fall, he'd admitted that he didn't know what the future held. Playing a major, let alone contending in one, seemed like a reasonable goal.

This year he's showed signs of softening, of being kinder and gentler. He appeared more eager to engage with his peers. More appreciative of battling the game's young stars inside the ropes. More likely to express his vulnerabilities. Now 42, he finally seemed at peace with accepting his role as an elder statesman.

One major, any major, would be the most meaningful title of his career, and he suggested this week that his best chance would come in an Open, where oldies-but-goodies Tom Watson (age 59) and Greg Norman (53) have nearly stolen the claret jug over the past decade.

But success at this Open, on the toughest links in the rota?

"Just need to play some cleaner golf, and who knows?" he shrugged.

Carmelo may end up with Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)—Carmelo Anthony is all but a Houston Rocket at this point. The veteran forward secured his buyout with the Oklahoma City Thunder this week, and the favorite to land him are the Rockets.

We are still waiting for everything to be official, but it seems that Anthony's potential future teammates are excited about having him on board.

Speaking to media this week, NBA MVP James Harden said that he felt like Anthony was a good pick up for the team that gave the Golden State Warriors a run in the Western Conference Finals before losing Chris Paul to injury.

It's not clear how Carmelo will integrate into Houston's offense just yet. The Rockets lost Trevor Ariza to the Phoenix Suns this summer, and we'll need more 3-point shooting outside of Eric Gordon. Anthony shot 35.7% from 3-point range last season, which is just about league average.

Even in an offense with a lot of isolation sets, Carmelo isn't a home run. People make the mistake of thinking that the Rockets simply dribble the ball down the floor then go one-on-one. That's not really the case.

The Rockets were 13th in the NBA in pace last year, and scored a league-leading 1.2 points per possession in transition. Their isolation sets were additive to their transition offense, and even then a lot of their iso ball sets were designed to create assists on mismatches.

Anthony has shown the ability to be a good passer over his time in the NBA, although last season with the Thunder he recorded a career-low two assists per 100 possessions. Many of his isolation plays are geared toward Anthony getting a shot up for himself, so whether Mike D'Antoni can convince him to work within the system is a big question moving forward.

Anthony could be useful for the Rockets, there's no doubt about it. But what seems more likely is that he might gunk up the works for Houston, especially come playoff time. The Rockets need to do something—or at least they feel they—to get past the Warriors this time around.

Gregoire, Kwon survive opener in POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Anthony Gregoire and David Kwon were tested in their opening game in the boys U12 team event in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and survived following a 2-1 victory over in Fiji yesterday.

Kwon played in the singles 1 and swept Samuel Nicolaus at the Northern Club Court 3 in Fiji. The CNMI bet cruised to a 6-2 win in the first set before laboring through a 7-5 triumph in the second. In the other singles tiff, Gregoire was neck-and-neck with Yash Morriswala in the opening set before the Fiji player pulled off a 7-6 (3) triumph and then followed it up with a 6-3 win in the second to tie the match.

In the deciding doubles game, it was another close match with Gregoire and Kwon needing a super-tie-break third set to secure the victory. The CNM duo prevailed in the extended opening set, 7-6 (3), but missed the sweep when the Fiji pair bounced back in the second, 6-3. Gregoire and Kwon then regrouped in the decider, showing poise in the home-stretch with a 10-8 triumph.

Gregoire and Kwon and their Fiji foes are in Group B of the pool play with players from Vanuatu 2, Tahiti, and Pacific. After the round-robin play, the Top 2 teams in Group B will advance to the semis and challenge their counterparts in Group A, which has Vanuatu 1, Cook Islands, East Boys, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Next up for Kwon and Gregoire are Vanuatu 2's Corenthin Mainguy and Jean Pierre Manu, who were shut down by Tahiti's Herman Chang and Noah Ah Kim Win Chin in the other opening match in Group B.

Meanwhile, the No. 3 seed Coume Kaga won her first match in the girls U14 singles after sweeping the Cook Islands' Te Akaiti Toa, 6-3, 6-4.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
David Kwon serves to Anthony Gregoire during a local tournament last year. Gregoire and Kwon won over host Fiji in the team event in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday.

Sean Lee was the other CNMI bet that won his opening match in the individual events in POJC after topping Vanuatu's Warea Tigona in the boys U16 singles, 6-3, 6-2.

Ken Song, Sam Ryu, and Maria Gregoire are also entered in the U16 singles, but dropped their first match. Tahiti's Mohearii Pilin defeated Song, 6-3, 6-3, while Vanuatu's Desiree Digno slipped past Gregoire, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, and No. 2 Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu shut down Ryu, 6-0, 6-0.

Malika Miyawaki and Conatsu Kaga were scheduled to play their first game in the girls U16 singles, too yesterday, but results of their match versus Luisa Tuasi'l and Tahiti's Lea Lamorelle, respectively, were unavailable as of press time.

Neymar insists he will stay at PSG to win titles

SAO PAULO (AP)—Neymar has rejected rumors he could leave Paris Saint-Germain, saying he wants to win titles at the French club.

The striker said at an auction organized by his institute that media speculation of any move was made up.

"I am staying at PSG. I have a contract and I want to win with this club," Neymar said in his first public appearance since Brazil was eliminated in the World Cup quarterfinals by Belgium.

Real Madrid chairman Florentino Perez recently issued a statement saying it was not seeking to sign the Brazilian star.

Neymar also says he takes no offense at criticism of his behavior on the pitch during the World Cup, including exaggerated reactions to being fouled by opponents.

Meanwhile, Mesut Ozil is quitting Germany's national team following criticism over his decision to pose for a picture with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In a series of statements posted Sunday on Twitter, the Arsenal star announced his retirement from international football. He attacked the German football federation (DFB), its president, fans and the media, criticizing what he saw as racism and double standards in the treatment of people with Turkish roots.

Citing anti-Turkish comments from far-right politicians and fans, Ozil said he would "no longer be playing for Germany at international level whilst I have this feeling of racism and disrespect."

He added: "Racism should never, ever be accepted."

The photo of Erdogan, Ozil and Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan meeting in London caused an uproar in Germany two months ago.

At the time, the head of Germany's soccer federation, Reinhard Grindel, publicly accused the players—whose families came to Germany from Turkey—of allowing themselves to be "exploited" by Erdogan for political purposes. Some German politicians questioned Ozil and Gundogan's loyalty to Germany and suggested they should be removed from the national squad ahead of the World Cup.

CNMI Senior All-Stars leave for World Series



JON PEREZ
The CNMI Senior All-Star Team joins the Liberation Day Parade along Beach Road last Saturday. The squad left Saipan yesterday to compete in the World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior All-Star Team left Saipan yesterday to compete in the World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

The squad made up of Leveque Iguel, Vicente Camacho II, Josenio Alvarez, Kianna Aldan, Pedro Maratita, Jordan Babauta, Dennis Cabrera, Justin Peter Celis, Aven Evangelista, Joaquin Fleming, Trevon Lieto, Ignacio Mendiola, Donovan Deleon Guerrero, Joel Norita, Orren-Cody Cruz, and Arby Yaguel, had a stopover in Guam where it was scheduled to leave this morning for Japan and from Tokyo they will make two more stops before arriving in Charlotte on Wednesday night (Wednesday morning Saipan time).

The Asia Pacific champions will be housed in one of the dorms at Clemson University and wont' be playing until Sunday (Monday on Saipan) after drawing a bye in the international bracket. The CNMI is with Europe/Africa, Canada, Latin America, Australia, and Caribbean teams.

The Doru Camacho-managed squad will be playing the winner in the Latin America vs Australia game for its opening match set for 7:45pm (Sunday, South Carolina time). The Aussies are represented by Cronula Little League from Sydney, New South Wales, while the Latin Americans have athe Cardenales Little League from Venezuela.

The international and United States brackets both have a double-elimination format. If the CNMI prevails its first game, it will face Caribbean or the winner in the Europe/Africa-Canada tiff. Pariba Little League of Curacao is the representative of Caribbean, while Europe Africa has Emilia Romagna Little League from Bologna, Italy. Canada's team has not been listed on the World Series website. A loss in its opening game will pit the CNMI against the loser, too in the Europe/Africa-Canada duel.

Doru Camacho, right after securing a World Series ticket following their 4-2 victory over the Philippines in the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament, admitted they are clueless about their opponents in South Carolina so they are expecting every game to be a challenge for the team.

"It's going to be tough, but we will do our very best. We're already here and we will grab the opportunity to play good games in the World Series," said Camacho.

"We have a very deep bullpen so that's definitely our advantage. The boys are very excited to play and represent our islands and Asia Pacific well," added Camacho, who will be assisted by coaches Juan Manibusan and Vicente Camacho.

TEEN

From Page 28

while the team meeting took place last Sunday morning, according to team manager Mikky Vargas.

"We discussed the players' job allocations while on the trip and afterwards gave the boys some time to practice their team performance for the tournament's farewell dinner. After lunch, the team made its way to the pitch for training. We ended the night with another team meeting where we discussed important tournament rules in preparation for tomorrow's (yesterday's) opening game against Macau," Vargas said.

After the match versus Macau, the Teen Ayuyus will take on China today at 10:30am. The game against the hosts is among the toughest for the CNMI, according to head coach Michiteru Mita, and they have to be aggressive both on offense and defense to produce positive results against China. Mita was reunited with the Teen Ayuyus in China last Sunday after joining the CNMI Men's National Team pool in Japan for a weeklong training camp.

Besides China, the head coach also sees Japan as the CNMI's toughest opponent in the EAFF tournament. The Teen Ayuyus will meet Japan tomorrow, while their last two matches will be against Mongolia (July 27) and Chinese-Taipei (July 28).

CNMI Athletics Team at Micronesian Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



The CNMI women's relay team, left, poses with Guam and Pohnpei runners after the medals presentation for the 4x100m relay race in the 9th Micronesian Games last week in Yap.



Beo Ngirchongor, fourth left, races in the 110m hurdles.



Oceania Athletics Association official and Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong presents the gold medal award in the 200m race to his daughter, Zarinae.



Neldreyon Skerei competes in the javelin throw.



Orrin Pharmin, Lane 5, runs in the 1,000m race as part of the octathlon event.



Nick Gross does the javelin throw.



Rachel Abrams joins the high jump event.



Eleina Santos, left, races in the 1,500m run.

Sale wins 5th straight start, lifts Red Sox vs Tigers

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Sports



Ice-cold Molinari repels slew of challengers

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant coach Jersh Angeles gives instructions to CNMI players during a training session in China last Sunday. The CNMI is competing in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament and defeated Macau, 1-0, yesterday.

Teen Ayuyus nip Macau in EAFF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U15 National Team eked out a 1-0 victory over Macau in its opening game in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament yesterday in Xianghe, China.

Rintaro Miyawaki scored the lone goal in the game, finding the back of the net in the 14th minute. Other details of the Teen Ayuyus' win over Macau will be reported on *Saipan Tribune*'s Wednesday edition.

The CNMI-Macau tiff was scheduled at 4:30pm (6:30pm Saipan time) for one of the last pair of matches in the opening day of the competition. China and Japan started the hostilities in the 10-team field as they collided in the 10:30pm match, while South and North Korea squared off at 1:30pm—the same time Chinese-Taipei was set to challenge Mongolia. In the other 4:30pm game, Guam was slated to meet Hong Kong. Results of the other opening day matches were unavailable as of press time.

The Teen Ayuyus, who also have Razeff Altamirano, Taka Borja, Ian Karl Maniago, Floyd Muna, Reginald Pascual, Brandon Tenorio, Merrick Toves, and John Joseph Villagomez, defenders John Ezekiel Canape, Brian Lubao, Daniel Mar Pablo, Rinto Takahashi, and Elijah Villarmero, forward Oliver Fajardo, and goalkeepers Jonathan Mindanao, John Martin Palad, and Jason Quimzon as members, left Saipan for the EAFF tournament last Friday and arrived in China last Saturday. They then spent their first two days in Xianghe holding team discussions and brief training sessions.

A light recovery training was held Saturday afternoon,

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CNMI advances to baseball finals



HIROYUKI MORI

A CNMI player swings, while a runner on third base gets ready to sprint home during a preliminary game against Pohnpei in the 9th Micronesian Games last week in Yap. The CNMI will play in the gold medal game after beating Kosrae in the semifinals yesterday, 13-1.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The gold medal in the baseball competition in the 9th Micronesian Games is within the CNMI's reach following its 13-1 rout of Kosrae in the second semifinals game yesterday in Yap.

The win was fifth in as many games for the Commonwealth, which will play in the finals tomorrow against the winner of the knockout game between Pohnpei and Kosrae. Pohnpei defeated 2010 champion Palau, 7-2, in the other playoff match yesterday to earn the right to face Kosrae for the second and last finals ticket.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Swim Team got another silver medal to bring Team Marianas' total to 20 (three golds, 10 silvers, and seven bronzes).

Kento Akimaru, Sophia Gauran, Keanna Villagomez, and Jinnosuke Suzuki swam for the CNMI squad that finished the 5-kilometer mixed relay race in 1:27:07. Palau's Noel Keane, Osisang Chilton, Roylin Akito, and Jericho Maido took the gold medal after completing the event in 1:22:41, while the Marshall Islands' Kayla Hepler, Phillip Kinono, Taruru Naut ,and Daniel Ranis clocked in at 1:49:57 to claim the bronze.

Yesterday's relay was the last event in the ocean swim competition and Palau ruled the tournament after collecting four gold medals, one silver, and three bronzes. The CNMI earned one gold and four silvers, while Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands have one bronze each.

In other results yesterday, the CNMI lost to Chuuk in the men's basketball classification game, 76-82. The semis matches in the division were also scheduled yesterday, but results of the Guam vs Palau and Pohnpei vs the Marshall Islands tiffs were unavailable as of press time.

In the women's basketball, Guam and the Marshall Islands marched into the gold medal game after eliminating their semis foes. The Marshall Islands booked the first finals seat after ousting Palau, 63-59, while Guam routed Pohnpei in the other semis match, 81-54.

In weightlifting, competition will start today at the Yap Sports Complex Gymnasium.

The combined weight competition will run from 10am to 1pm, while the eight weight classes contest will be held this Thursday from 10pm to 3pm.

The CNMI has five entries in the weightlifting event. The list includes Rodrigo Ada, Bonny Cruz, Antonette Labausa, Angel San Nicolas, and Joseph Tudela.

MICRO GAMES 2018
MORE THAN JUST GAMES

MEDAL TALLY
As of 7pm July 18, 2018

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Guam	25	12	12	49
Palau	25	9	11	45
Pohnpei	10	21	13	44
Yap	5	7	13	25
Chuuk	4	1	3	8
CNMI	3	10	7	20
RMI	3	9	3	15
Kiribati	2	2	1	5
Nauru	2	2	1	5
Kosrae	0	4	6	10

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